

God Called Us, But Did He Call Our Children? *cont.*

with the people here where we would live, we could get a dog in Brazil. Maybe.

When we arrived on the 11th of September, we pulled into the church property and Deanna said, “Oh I forgot to tell you, 4 days ago our dog gave birth to two puppies.” Phil and I looked at each other. A few weeks later we added a member to our family. He’s small, has dark hair, dark eyes and is cuter than cute. We named him George.

Just last week I worked out that George’s birthday, 4 days before we arrived would have been the 7th of September, also Luke’s birthday. God knew we were coming, and he knew that we had two children who desperately wanted a dog and just to make it special he made sure his birthday was the same as our son’s. I saw it as God’s way of showing our children that He had prepared a place for them, that He called them to Brazil too.

Yesterday, I was sharing with others Luke’s experience, the frustration he feels when being teased. Emma Bergen, who was born here said, “It took me about a year and a half of living here [in Marabá] to figure out that when they tease, it’s their way of inviting you into friendship.” Huh.

Luke had a funny grin on his face when I told him and said, “Well that makes no sense.” I replied, “No it doesn’t, but does it make you feel better?”

“Ya, it does,” he said smiling.

by Jen Snell. Jen and Phil and their two children Luke and Faith moved to Brazil as missionaries in 2012. Jen blogs at snellsintheamazon.blogspot.com

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Xingu Mission Field Report

Xtreme Mercy
Planting Churches and
Training Leaders

Why Partner in Church Planting in Brazil?

Often we are confronted with so many needs and difficulties right in front of us and this question comes up. Why should we worry about people half way around the globe? Shouldn’t they just work harder or learn to take care of themselves rather than depend on others? Here is a recent story that helps to highlight the importance of sharing the Gospel with those who have never heard.

I (Bud Simon), had heard stories about a certain village where the people were closed to the Gospel and rejected outsiders. However, it so happened that one night I was traveling on the river and I was close to this village, needing a place to sleep. I stopped in and asked if I could stay there for the evening. They were willing to accommodate me and in this way began our friendship. I visited several more times and soon began to build a deeper relationship with those living in the village. Each visit, they became more receptive to the Gospel.

Then, on a recent trip, I sat down with the small group in the village, maybe 12 adults in all. I explained how Christ can change our families and change the dynamics of our relationships.

As I spoke and addressed different issues, some of the people were openly fighting to control their emotions. Things were striking close to home. Mixed in with the emotions is a hope of change, of seeing their story changed. There is hope of experiencing Christ intersecting with their lives, altering their stories, and being the difference maker, the One, who shows light on a new path.

After the service, one of the people spoke to me.

“Pastor, do you have a minute? I want to say



village along the river



Why partner in church

Planting in Brazil? *cont.*

that we have decided to follow Jesus. We want the things that God wants for us. We want that for us and for our children. Will you help us make that a reality in our lives?"

I spent some time visiting with this family and praying for them. It is God that provides the change and we are only the channel through which He works. Soon the whole family celebrated their salvation with baptism.

Here are three "C"s that can help us remember the importance of partnering with what God is doing.

Compassion – Matthew 9:36-40 shows that compassion is a prime motivation for reaching



After the baptism



Children Ministry

out to others. Christ wants us to be stirred up to care for others in their situation without judging. It is important to consider what our lives would be like if the situation was reversed. If we had never heard the Gospel, if our children were sick or without educational opportunities, how would we want others to view us?

Commission – Matthew 28:18-20 makes it clear that we need to consider how to go to the farthest corners of the earth to share the Gospel. We need to be intentional in our involvement, making it a point to share the Gospel with other people and empower those who are fulfilling this work. The Good News of Jesus Christ is about love, joy and peace coming into our lives to make a change.

Contributing- We can make a difference in the way that we contribute. We can contribute with our lives, by going and helping out. This can be with a team, as a short term, or as for a longer term commitment. Partnering in this way is important

to spreading God's love. We can contribute with our prayers, regularly praying for those that are on the mission field. And we can contribute financially, helping to share the load and meet the needs that exist in the mission field.

Pray about how God wants you involved – we all are part of expanding God's Kingdom work.

Please continue to pray for the many people that live in these small villages and communities that need to hear the Gospel. We appreciate your partnership with us.

God Called Us, But Did He Call Our Children?

It's been a bit of a tough week or so. Luke has been having some difficulties with his friends here. Sometimes coming in to the house really angry or just overreacting to small things with big explosive anger.

Then, one day we had a break through. He came in very upset after having a fight with one of his friends who had been making fun of him. He lay on my lap and instead of showing anger, he cried. He cried about missing home. He cried "Why do they make fun of me? I just want to play with them!" and "Why, why did we come here?" My heart broke for him and all I did all I could do, I

held him. I soothed him and let it come out. Although it was hard to see him so upset, it was also good to see the root of the issue surface, he was hurting and confused. Perfectly normal. Perfectly heartbreaking.

As a parent, making life changing decisions and following God's call on your life is very difficult knowing your decisions not only affect you but they affect your children, who, let's face it, don't have much say in the matter. They are along for the ride. Or are they?

When we were in Canada preparing to come to Brazil, the kids really, really wanted a dog. For obvious reasons, we couldn't get one. We said, that maybe, if it worked out and it was ok



Luke with his new dog