June 2010

A note from Richie

I am very thankful for the people that God has placed around me. The main focus of my ministry in Brazil has been to raise up leaders. Jesus surrounded himself with 12 men for three years. They travelled together, ate together, laughed together and at time found themselves in awkward situations. First, we must ourselves become disciples of Jesus and then we begin to model the changes that he is making in our lives. A couple of years ago a former missionary stated, "God is more concerned about what he is doing in you than what you are doing through you." Never has that been more true in my life. As I allow God access to make changes in my life the people close to me will see the changes and that is my testimony. Last year we rebuilt the motor on the Maranata III. The clock on the motor was at 5000 hours. I reflected on how long 5000 hours is since that is just the running time not including the hours of laughing, eating, praying and trying to sleep while swatting mosquitos . Over the years we have sunk canoes, eaten fish on the banks and at times wept together. In other words we've shared life and this is the real place where disciples are made. I wanted to include a picture of one of my friends whose name is Dinei and his wife Claudia. A few weeks ago I sat in on his homegroup as he shared the changes God has made since he and his wife became disciples.

Their marriage had been doomed before it started and Dinei struggled with drinking and bouts of rage. Today they have two beautiful daughters, a healthy marriage and a happy home. Together they have a weekly homegroup, coach the worship team and Dinei serves on the church board and preaches regularly. While Dinei and I still go out spearfishing almost weekly now he has other friends that he can go out and sink canoes with as well. -- **Richie**



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Seventeen women from Porto De Moz spent two days at Monte Verde, our TLC camp. It was a great time of relaxation, reflection and studying God's work. Teachings were about:

1. What we do in secret (Matthew 6:1-34). Are we spending our alone time with God, are we doing "acts of righteousness" to be seen by others? Are we storing up treasures in heaven or are we too concerned about money and food and clothing...etc. A call to refocus on Christ and putting His Kingdom first.

2. Are we keeping spiritually fit? Spending time with God, in His presence, repenting, seeking Him, reading the Bible?

3. Do we know God's voice and are we listening to Him?

4. Mark 14:32-36 Alone time with God. Following Jesus' example.



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Porto de Moz

In this passage, we see that Jesus left the multitude, left his closest disciples and went alone for time with God. His prayer reflects what our prayers should be: "...yet not what I will, but what you will." (Matt 14:36 NIV)

I trust that Christ will speak to you through these scriptures as He did to us. Let's focus ourselves on Him, listening, knowing Him and placing Him first in our lives. That is the desire of our hearts here in Porto de Moz.



Woman who attended conference at Monte Verde

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They just want love

The children here in Porto De Moz (Porto) and on the surrounding rivers are just looking for a little attention and a lot of love. For a little over a year now, Terry Price has been living in Porto doing just that. Because of Terry's Portuguese language skills, it has been hard for him to sit and talk with the children. Nevertheless, Terry has been having a blast playing with them. Every chance he gets he tries to remind them that Jesus brought Terry to Porto for them. Out of the thirty or so children who stop by Terry's house to play and color, about 10 of them are coming to the church for Sunday school classes.



The neighborhood calls many of these children "problem children" but they are not a problem to Terry. Why, you ask? It is simple; Terry just shows them the love of Jesus.

On Terry's second day back in Porto after over two months of Portuguese lessons in Salvador Brazil, two ten year old girls from the neighborhood welcomed him back with flowers they made for him when they heard he was back in town. The thing that surprises him most about these flowers is things like this are very hard to find here in Porto. They are usually a prize possession and yet they gave them to Terry. Within fifteen minutes, more than a dozen kids were coloring and playing in front of Terry's house.

It is our hope and prayer that one day all of them will know Jesus.



Above - Kids playing on Terry's porch Left - Handmade flowers for Terry

Short term teams



Regina Team

We recently journeyed to the flood plain with a team from Regina. They were a group of 8 young adults and virtually all interested in full-time missionary work. Their global perspective was beautiful and uncommon.

The one thing that missionaries and prospective missionaries have in common is an understanding that suffering and inconvenience are a very real part of serving our Father. This group understood that the abundant life has little to do with feelings and comfort and is more about giving ourselves away. They handled the normal Amazon idiosyncrasies (it was quite warm and quite buggy) well and, even in the face of fatigue and illness (just about everyone got sick), still loved the people in the interior like most of our visiting teams do. They prayed and embraced and prayed and embraced. They poured themselves into the kids and into serving the adults in any way that they could. The impressive thing about this team was not as much what they did but how they did it. They demonstrated passion and concern radically, soberly and consistently. This was more than a trip for them; it was a pouring out, a no holds barred approach to ministry (that they had done before and planned to do again); one that involved tireless energy, frequent tears, much work, and



Praying

many smiles and hugs, all while dealing with unfamiliarity, bugs, heat, and illness. They told of the Kingdom but more they demonstrated the fruit of walking with the King.

Visiting teams join us in our work for a week or two. They spend much to get here and then spend more in choosing to love and serve whether healthy, tired or sick. They leave an impression of Jesus with those visited and communicate about the Kingdom in few words.

Thank you, Regina Team, and all of you (who support this work) who choose to be change in our Father's Brazil pocket, being spent by Him as He sees best, for the benefit of those we serve.