



Miriam with Sara (6), Marlon (1), and Emanuela (8)

Miriam first invited us to visit her home in Jacaré Cunha, in November 2016. She is a beautiful young lady of 26 and has 3 children ages 8, 6 and 1. Miriam is a cousin of our caretaker, Benedito, and had heard about the church in Bujaru. “Please come”, she implored us. “Our home is open. My husband, Manuel, and I would like to hear more about Jesus.” We made plans to visit their home January 12 which was the first opportunity we had.

However, some unexpected expenses came up that week and we were unable to make the trip. We had to reschedule for February.

But on January 15, we received word that our visit was too late for Miriam’s husband, Manuel. Manuel was killed that day by a brother of his who was on drugs. Miriam and her husband along with their children were visiting Manuel’s mother when the brother came in and began pushing and hitting his mother. When Manuel stepped in to defend her, the brother pulled out a gun and shot Manuel at close range in the chest. He died a few minutes later in front of his wife, mother and 3 children. Manuel was only 24.

The first week of February we were finally able to visit Miriam’s home. We took Bibles and used clothes. There was time to listen and cry with the family. We shared with them the love of Jesus and prayed with them.

The next week Miriam came to our church service in Bujaru in her small open canoe and made a decision to follow Jesus. She was baptized this last Sunday along with 11 other new Christians in Bujaru. It was a very emotional time as Miriam testified with tears how happy and thankful she is to know Jesus and receive his salvation but *how much* she wishes that her husband could have been baptized along with her.

A younger brother of Miriam, Sidney (pronounced Sydney) was also baptized Sunday. Her father too has made a decision to follow Jesus and is planning to get baptized at the next baptismal service.



Miriam baptized in Guama River – her cousin Benedito and caretaker in Bujaru is on the left, missionary Gabriel behind her and Pr. Marçal on the right



Maria de Lourdes - baptism

Another beautiful testimony at the baptism was of **Maria de Lourdes**. Maria de Lourdes used to practice witchcraft as long as her family can remember. She was an angry, bitter person causing strife and fighting in the family. Then two months ago Maria renounced witchcraft and committed her life to Christ. When Maria confessed Jesus, her life was changed. She now serves a new Lord and is filled with His joy and peace. Her daughter, granddaughter and granddaughter's husband already came to know Jesus and were baptized in the Bujaru church 2 years ago. The transformation in Maria's life is a miracle that they never thought possible. They are overjoyed at what Jesus has done in their family.

Guajar, 1  hours by canoe from Bujaru, is one more community that is asking for a church. Twelve people from this community came to the baptismal service this Sunday. Three of them were baptized. They are planning to come every other weekend to the church in Bujaru until we are able to open a church in their area.

We are always looking for a new way to say thank you. We pray that these stories touch your hearts and that you can see how valuable your giving and prayers have been. The testimonies here are just a small part of what God is doing. **Thank you** for joining with us to reach a people that have no value to most of the world. They are precious to the Lord and to us.



Benedito and his family on the right along with two new families from Guajar that are asking for a church in their community

"The harvest indeed is abundant, but the workers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers."

Luke 10:2

Love,

Scott and Michelle Toth and family

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"May your unfailing love rest upon us as we put our hope in you." Psalm 33:22