

## Vacation Bible Schools –Açu, Castanhal and Bujaru...



Vacation Bible School - Açu

**The Kingdom of Heaven** was the theme of our Vacation Bible Schools this summer. A total of 180 children attended the 3 Bible Schools. It was the first for our church in Açu and 65 children came. The youth group from Castanhal worked along with Deborah to organize a beautiful play, Bible teaching, special music and activities. The play was the story of a King who gave His Son to save the subjects of his kingdom from being enslaved by their wicked enemy. At the end of the play,



Vacation Bible School - Castanhal

the Son is killed in battle but comes to life again and all the subjects are given a chance to be children of the King, heirs of the Kingdom.

After each VBS, the parents were invited to a presentation by the children. In Castanhal, one of the fathers of the children came forward in tears, kneeling and praying that he too could become a part of the Kingdom of God.



Vacation Bible School - Bujaru



# Youth Ministry - Castanhal



Philip (front left) and Havilah (middle row right) with Paulo, Lucas, Gustavo, Marcos and other youth group friends evangelizing downtown

Five years ago **Gustavo, Paulo, Marcos, Vinicius, and Lucas** were part of a group of boys in our neighborhood that were looking for friends and a good time. The direction that many in their group took was alcohol, drugs, drug dealing and robbery. In the last 2 years, two of their old friends were killed in drug related crimes. But these 5 found Jesus and He changed the course of their lives. Today they are ministering on the worship team, preaching at the youth service, serving in the children's ministry, evangelizing at our river churches, and witnessing to their friends. They were the ones that took on the responsibility of organizing and holding all 3 Vacation Bible Schools.

One of their old friends who they recently invited to church is **Emerson**. Emerson, 21, never knew his father. His mother, 15 years old at the time he was born, was unable to care for him so his grandmother raised him until she passed away. After that he stayed with different relatives and finally his mother until she died 6 months ago. At the age of 12, Emerson started drinking alcohol with friends. At 14, he started using marijuana and dropped out of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The last 7 years he has spent taking every kind of drug he could get a hold of – LSD, Ecstasy, Crack, Cocaine and Oxy (Oxycontin).

Then Gustavo invited Emerson to our summer Youth Camp in Bujaru. The young people in church took a collection to pay his way. The first night at camp Emerson felt the love of Jesus and surrendered his heart to his Heavenly Father – the first father he has ever known.

The second day of camp, Emerson went with the other youth to make visits and evangelize the people in Bujaru. They visited a family with 4 small children where a little 5 year old girl, Tainá, was sick with fever and a headache. The leader of the group asked who wanted to pray for Tainá and Emerson offered to pray. As he prayed, the fever and headache left. Emerson was amazed that God could use him to bless Tainá and her family. Emerson left the camp, completely free from drugs, cigarettes and alcohol. God has filled him with compassion for needy people and anyone who does not know Jesus. He has come to every service at church that he can, bringing his friends and other family members.



Emerson with Tainá (left) and Family

**God has given us young people that He is raising up to be future pastors and missionaries. Thank you** for helping us to change the course of so many young people to have a future and hope in Jesus. **Thank you** for investing in *each area* of the work here – the church planting, river ministry, medical boat clinics and home for abused children.

*"I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me."* Matt 25:40

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." Psalms 33:22*