

Update January-March 2020

God's Perfect Timing



In February a team of doctors, dentists, nurses, dental assistants, physical therapist assistant, pharmaceutical researcher, psychologist, pastor and volunteers came for one week to minister to over 300 patients on the Guama and Capim Rivers. The dentists used the dental chair on our boat for the first time. They also brought a second portable chair



Dr. Terry treats patients using new dental chair

designed for jungle use so we were able to have two dental teams working full time along with the doctors and other health workers. It was an extra blessing to have our dear friend Jimmy Balta accompany the team. Jimmy helped with the initial purchase of the medical boat and the new dental chair. It was his first time here in Brazil.

Originally, Dr. Brian Zimmerman was planning to bring this team to serve on our medical boat the week of April 5-10. But as he prayed and sought God's direction, he felt he should move the trip up from April to February. We are so amazed now as we see God's timing in all of this. The trip would have been completely impossible in April. But because the team was obedient to God's timing, they were greatly used to share the love of Jesus with the communities of Alegre Vamos, Livramento and Bujaru.



Dr. Anil treating patients at clinic



PTA, Hannah, teaches mother of boy paralyzed by polio how to do daily therapy on her son

While the team was there, the people of Alegre Vamos finished the dock for our medical boat and are now ready for a church building.



Two small boys from Alegre Vamos receive Bible story coloring books

Moju Medical Boat trip before corona lockdown!



Nurse Deborah leads team of volunteers to Paritá



Medical Boat docks at Paritá



Nursing student attending patients



On March 17, our Hope Ministries clinical team was scheduled for a three day trip to the Moju River to hold clinics at Paritá. However with all the news about the corona virus, there were some who were in doubt if we should go. Some thought that our team could be exposed to the virus and bring it home to their families. Others thought that the right thing as health workers would be to go forward with the clinics giving the health care and teaching that we could. After much prayer the team went out. They were able to treat many families and teach about proper virus prevention. They saw only one patient and her family that had possible corona virus symptoms. When the team returned to Castanhal, they isolated themselves from friends and family as much as possible for the following two weeks. We thank the Lord that none of them came down with the virus. That very day they came home, the city of Castanhal and our state of Pará were put on lockdown because of the virus.

There are very few coronavirus tests available here and only for the critically ill. Schools are closed, churches are asked not to meet, and social distancing is being practiced. The hospitals and ICUs are full. People are asked to go out only to work or to take care of essential needs. This Sunday, April 5, the President of Brazil declared a nationwide day of prayer and fasting.

Jesus tells us, "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then will come the end." Matthew 24:14 We rejoice that we are in this country of Brazil, privileged to preach His gospel here. Even though we have not had church services for three weeks we are continuing to share the gospel through video and live messages on Instagram and WhatsApp. People's hearts are very sensitive at this time. Many people are sending us messages asking for prayer and wanting to commit their lives to following Jesus. When the church building is open again, we believe that will be many new people coming to Christ.

We know that this is an extremely difficult time for you as well as it is for us here. **That is why we are especially thankful** for your continuing support for our family and ministry. We trust in God for his daily provision to meet both your needs and ours!

He is faithful!

Love,

Scott and Michelle Toth and family

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