

MISSIONS UPDATE: From the Rainforest

From the Rainforest:

Many of you were praying with us during the holiday season for a witch doctor named Pèa, and his family group that live a 30 min hike down river from the main village of Budu-U here. (I'm sure they think we live 30 min up river from the main village...) I'm happy to report that the Christmas outreach went well and was very well attended. There were games and prizes and food for the community, but the day started off early with a Christmas service first. I was impressed that no one was in a hurry to get to the games and food.

At noon the meeting was still going. There had been singing, dancing, and readings from Luke and the book of Revelation. Kopi was giving the talk and we all were praying. Kopi was giving an interesting message tying in passages from Revelation with the Christmas story from Luke. But in typical Yanomami fashion it appeared few were paying close attention.

Everyone nonchalantly sat and lounged around the large round house. Kopi stood in the middle of the circle meekly going on in a voice that I had to strain to hear over the din. My heart was sinking, but then Kopi wound up his talk by saying there were a few people who had been thinking about these things for a while and know that they are true. "Come tell us what you are thinking." Carlos stood up first. "I am a Christian", he said, "but I have not been living like one. I want to repent from my foolishness and come back into Christian fellowship" (His two younger brothers are apprentices to Pèa).

Then another young woman stood, and another. Then Teresa, wife of the third apprentice, stood and said she wanted to be a christian and be baptized. Whispers and comments went rippling through the crowd "a witch doctor's wife too?" Antonio then stood making a profession of faith. He's an intelligent young man who can read well, but has also been dabbling in witchcraft. I'd been having conversations with Antonio since we arrived here 5 years ago that I thought hadn't gotten anywhere. I was already praising God for the incredible way he was moving hearts, but then Duda, Pèa's son, stood up. He wanted to make his decision for Christ public too! By the end 15 people had stood to make professions of faith.

In the midst of all this I could see Pèa across the circle. I could see his wheels turning. I went and sat next to him and, after a bit, I asked him if he was not thinking about all these things too. He said "I've already talked with Curt (our Brazilian coworker) about this. We agreed that he would get to God's house on that path and I would get to our heaven on my own different path." I know Curt well enough to know that he would never have agreed to the two path deception (Jesus says "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." -John 14:6), but I did not want to argue right then. I only said keep thinking about it, you already know there is only one right path. Pèa continues to be friendly and we continue to make visits to his group down river. He was not ready yet that day but I have not given up on him. Keep praying with me.

The new believers that gave their testimonies on Christmas day have asked to be baptized. The church community has decided that a good time might be when we missionaries all get back after our field conference at the end of March. Around Easter there will be a baptism service and celebration here. I guess I don't mind the rain so much if the Son is shining.

From a jungle satellite uplink,

Jon & Valerie Brown



DO YOU EVER WONDER IF YOUR PRAYERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Sometimes, especially when praying for the world, it can feel like our prayers get sent out somewhere and we're not certain where or how they land.

In the past year, we've seen you engage in prayer with our Global Partners in new and profound ways and your prayers have made a difference. From prisoners being set free, a dramatic Seal Team Six rescue operation, a former terrorist turned evangelist, marriages healed, bodies healed and the softening of a witch doctor's heart, you are effectively impacting the world for Christ through prayer.

On the back page is a recent update from the jungles of Brazil that paints another picture of how and why your prayers matter. We also asked more of our Global Partners to share how your prayers matter to them and throughout the month of March we are featuring their replies on our Missions in Action group on Realm.

In the coming year, we'll be launching some new initiatives to help you stay connected through prayer for our Global Partners and unreached people around the world.

This includes a new Missions Wall featuring current prayer information and a monthly Prayer Guide to encourage you with stories, testimonies and creative ways you can pray effectively for specific areas.

IN THE MEANTIME, HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU CAN STAY ENGAGED THROUGH PRAYER:



Becoming a Prayer Partner with a few of our Global Partners is a great way for you to not only "send" prayers, but participate in real time and receive answers and regular updates directly from those you pray for.



Sign up to receive our Weekly Prayer Points email
missions@blackrock.org

ENGAGE BEYOND PRAYER THROUGH GIVING

BRC.CHURCH/IWILLGIVE
Take your next step in giving to Missions