

EMPOWERED TO SUCCEED

As I reflect on our ministry time from December through March this year, the word that resounds in my heart and mind is "Blessed"! You, our ministry partners, through prayer, giving of your resource, your friendship, and investing your time by traveling to the Amazon Jungle, have prospered the Kingdom of God, blessing so many.

In Hebrew, the understanding of this word "Blessed" means to be empowered to prosper and succeed! Thank you for being our ministry partners and blessing us and the mission of Amazon Outreach. You will see the pictures of this and read the testimonies of God's Kingdom advancing in this newsletter.

I know some prosperity preachers have made a mess of teaching about this, but if God is not afraid of authentic prosperity, neither should we be afraid of it. The question is not, "Does God want to bless us"? But why does God want to bless us and make us prosperous"?

Genesis 26:12&13 NKJV "Then Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous."

In Genesis 12:2 NIV, God speaks to Abraham: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

Abraham and Isaac were blessed to be a blessing to others in their lifetime and for future generations. Our faith and blessing, according to Galatians 3:8-9 is the same as Abraham's. We are today living for the one who is making all things new and establishing his Kingdom on the earth.

Eternally Blessed, David & LaRae Pepper

Marcos Londono, our friend and missionary in the lower Amazon region of Peru, had a stroke. He was dealing with partial paralysis and could not speak when he arrived for the December Ministers' Voices of Promise and Power Conference. He traveled by boat to the conference a week after the stroke and could not give his verbal report at the MEPI business meeting in the morning. Later that night, we prayed and laid hands on all needing healing or a miracle. In that moment, Jesus healed him, and he started to praise God with tears pouring down his face. This picture was taken a few days later as we met with all the evangelists; Marcos declared that he would continue to be a voice and preach the gospel of Jesus. Praise God!



WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS THERE IS FREEDOM

On Tuesday, March 7th, our team of Barry Bivens, Bob Russell, Chris Haney, Obbie Todd, Steve Proeschel, and myself, Paul Clements, traveled with Pastors Daniel, Carolina, Raimundo, Joel, and our translator Hildebrand, to visit Nuevo Aparecida village in Brazil. The village is located on the Takana River, about an hour and a half from Tabbatinga in the jungle. The boats we took to reach it were tiny, and the river was more like a very small and crooked creek instead of the typical large rivers we usually travel on. We finally reached the village, and as usual, the kids were lined up at the river's edge to greet us and show off by jumping off of trees into the river.

The first hut we came to was where Pastor Vinicios and his wife Sarai live with their children and her mother. They treated us to a delicious lunch, then they took us to show us the church they had built. The village women sang two praise and worship songs in their Ticuna language, and although we could not understand, the Spirit of God was so strong! The power of God was present, and it felt like we were at home. Next, they wanted our team to introduce ourselves and share a few words like we usually do.....but then everything changed when Pastor Vinicios took the mic!

He introduced himself as the Village Chief and also as the Pastor of the Church and said he wanted to give the testimony of their village. Five years ago, their village was absolute Hell! Their village was full of anger, rage, violence, abuse, alcohol, drugs, suicide, and even murder. He said all they did was cry because they had no hope or way of improving their village. He told his wife he would go to the authorities in Tabbatinga to ask them for help. They agreed and sent counselors, but it did not help at all. He and his wife were at a total loss; they did not know what to do. One day, his wife told him they needed to pray and ask God to send someone to help them. Vinicios and Sarai were not Christians but knew there had to be a God, so they prayed and asked for help.

One year later, God sent Joel Dosantos to their village! The same Joel that took David Pepper just a few years earlier to Tierra de Paz village, where there is now a MEPI Church. Joel heard about Nuevo Aparecida village and was compelled to visit them and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. When he arrived, Vinicios met him and invited him into his home. Joel preached the Gospel to him, Sarai, their children, and mother-in-law, and they all accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The Gospel began to spread throughout the village, and little by little, families began to come to Jesus! Vinicios studied the Word of God and became the Pastor. Today, almost their entire village of over 400 are saved! The Pastor said they used to cry every day because they had no hope.....but now, they cry every day because of the joy of the Lord in their hearts and village. Their village has experienced freedom from destructive anger, rage, violence, abuse, alcohol, drugs, suicide, and murder!

Pastor Vinicios did say that they have one problem left. The church building that they built will only hold 100 people. When they gather for church, the entire village comes, so when it rains, most of them get rained on. They have cleared the land behind the current church to build a new facility big enough for them all to fit into.

When we returned home, we shared the testimony of Nuevo Aparecido with many people. When one friend of the ministry heard what God did there, he asked me, "What are you waiting for? They need a bigger church now!" We called MEPI, got the estimated construction cost of \$15,000, and then he wrote the check! The money has been sent, and construction will start soon. Our God is faithful!!! —For the Gospel, Paul Clements



This is the current church building in Nuevo Aparacido that is spoken of in the article by Paul Clements.



Many people in Tabatinga, Brazil, are excited about the new MEPI Central brick church. It was a joint effort of hard work by Pastor Barry's team and a crew of hard working brothers and sisters from Brazil and Peru.



I am thankful for the partnership with Kingdom Alliance as they built three more MEPI churches in Shawi Villages. It was a lot of fun to be with Dave and Kristine Teigen, Steve Proeschel and their team to help out for a couple of days.



In January, we held three outreaches with the Kandozi tribe, 620 people were seen in the clinics. I was asked to return in March 2024 to hold mass wedding ceremonies in different areas. Many couples are convicted, realizing the blessing that comes through a marriage covenant in the eyes of God, their community, and the nation of Peru.



This little girl, Bethy, is named after my sister. Some years ago, as a newborn, she was left on the bank of the Chapuri River to die. The Kandozi lady in the above picture was one of the Kandozis who found her and immediately brought her to a clinic Beth was leading. There she received love and medical treatment. This precious woman is now raising her as her own child. Little Bethy will be starting kindergarten this year.



The 75 children and teenagers that are part of House of Hope ministry in Belen are now receiving a meal every day. We are grateful for their leaders, Abner and Clara, and our partners who continue to sponsor this ministry that is changing the lives of these youth.



Thank you to Pastors Marty Sloan, Alberto Lopez, and Jonathan Walker for the impact brought through God's word and an abiding impartation of what a marriage can be. These young leaders were blessed during the three-day Marriage Intensive. We continue to hear the testimonies that their hearts are more connected to God and each other.



We experienced an incredible year-end leaders and pastors' conference in Iquitos, Peru, sponsored by Workmen for Christ Cowboy Church in Owensboro, Ky. Over 550 ministry leaders participated in the conference. I am grateful for our ministers who spoke and ministered in love and power; this team includes Pastor Barry Bivens, Paul Clements, Pastor Urie and Amanda Hershberger, Israel Aguilar, Pastor Meison Missly and his wife, Gladis.



In February and March, we had three fabulous church teams totaling 56 short-term missionaries that came from the states to spread the gospel of Jesus: Calvary Church in Naperville, (pic. 1), Church on the Rock in Wasilla, Alaska, (pic.2) and Hill Country Fellowship in Burnet, Texas (pic 3). One thousand twenty-six people were treated in the medical and dental clinics, 23 water wells were drilled, 140 families assisted with food and supplies, and 103 people came to faith at the family festival outreaches! These teams demonstrated much love while ministering and accomplishing many projects.

Current Financial Needs for Amazon Outreach	
Kitchen facilities for Yurimaguas Bible Academy	\$2,750
Puerto Requena church building	\$8,000
Galilea church and ministry center	\$17,000
Kandozi & Shawi Bibles	\$10,000
Iquitos Bible Academy equip. and furnishings	\$20,000
Four Shawi Village church buildings	\$20,000
Evangelism & travel costs	\$15,000
Aid for widows & homeless youth	\$20,000

Prayer Needs

For good health, protection, and boldness for the MEPI evangelists as they minister in dangerous areas.

Wisdom for the MEPI leadership in overseeing the churches, Bible Academies, and humanitarian work.

Continued favor with government officials in Peru and Brazil for gospel work.

For the increase of financial ministry partners as the vision of Amazon Outreach continues to grow.

Thank you for your prayers and generous gifts to help those we serve in the Amazon Jungle. You are making a difference!

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