

GOFF MINISTRIES
2215 49TH STREET
LUBBOCK, TX 79412

01-13-03

Dear Fellow Members in the Glorious Body of Christ,

Thank you again for sharing your love with us so we can take your love and invest it into winning the lost for the Kingdom of God. I am so excited to tell what we found in so many areas that were totally remote and primitive when we first sowed the gospel of Jesus Christ there as long as 25 years ago. We are so privileged to have been the first to minister the good news, as seeds of life, which Jesus could use to build his church, in those areas.

One of the places was in the Peten jungle of Guatemala. Betty and I and our four children, son-in-law, and first grandchild, rode horses and mules from sun-up to sundown to get back to an area that only had about six families scattered far apart in the jungle. After three months of surviving the malaria infested swamps and many times of going without food, because it was so scarce back there, we had a few people who received the word of the Lord with joy and were baptized in the tiny river that ran near our little hut. As Vaughn and I and Matthew Murski (a brother who joined us on this trip) drove down a dirt road that did not exist 25 years ago, Vaughn began recognizing landmarks that he remembered as a boy of nine years old. For example, a stream where he and Valene would go daily to get water for the family. We were joyfully shocked as we came to the valley where our little palm-leaf roofed hut had stood and saw that it was now a town of 6000 people. We later found that the village has many churches, including four full gospel churches that are spreading the gospel in every direction. So, the seed we sowed must have fallen on very fertile soil. That same night we showed our gospel film to at least 130 people in a grassy field where dozens more received the word of the Lord with joy! We showed the film in the open air to demonstrate that the most important people in that village are the lost people. We can only praise God and give Him the glory for all the marvelous work He has done in that area of Guatemala. We discovered that Jesus certainly knows how to build HIS church!! Hallelujah! Early in the morning that we left there, a brother came knocking on our door. He was one of the people who had received the gospel 25 years ago. He heard we were there and had come a long way to see us and tell us thanks for bringing the gospel to him and the others that were saved so long ago. He told how God had blessed that entire region and it is now the most productive cattle raising area of the entire country of Guatemala. Naturally we were so touched and blessed to have had a part of God's work there. All who helped send us there have a part too. Glory to HIS Name!!

We also checked on the believers in southern Mexico, just a few miles from the border of Belize. The village is called Huay-Pix in the Mayan Indian language. It means, witch's knee, in English. Again God honored us with being the first successful gospel seed-sowers some 23 years ago. There are now ten churches of all denominations in that large village, seven of them being full gospel. Again as always we did most of our ministering out in the open air so as to reach the lost ones and the unchurched. It has never ceased to amaze me that if we will be faithful witnesses and sow the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost that Jesus will build His own church, like He said he would!!

We also went back to the small town of Huatusco, in the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico. It is now a very large city. It is high in the mountains about half way up Mount Orizaba, the ninth tallest mountain in the world and an active volcano. We ministered there and in all the surrounding mountain villages of Nautl Indians 20 years ago. Others had gone there before us and tried to preach the gospel but had either been killed or run off. The Lord of glory allowed our family to preach the good news on a foundation of precious blood sacrificed in the Lord's service! We did encounter opposition though, as Satan tried to stop Jesus from building His church through us. One night as I was driving down from one of the Indian villages my truck, with eight of us in it, was ambushed by a group of at least 14 men with lots of guns, some of which were machine guns. They shot at us from as close as 4 to 5 feet away, but the Holy Spirit and God's angels did not let the bullets penetrate the truck or our flesh!! Praise the Lord!! We also started an alcoholics mission in our house and had many of those men get delivered and accept Jesus as Savior. As Vaughn and I stood in the market place where we used to send Vaughn every day to buy the meat and vegetables for the mission, we saw a Christian fish sign on one of the meat markets. They were the same ones who owned it when we were there and remembered Vaughn and myself very well. They just kept thanking us for bringing the gospel there and telling us that we were the first ones that came with the gospel that didn't get killed.. Tears of joy filled our eyes as well as theirs as we rejoiced to see each other again and see what God had done! There are 5 churches preaching the true gospel in that town now and many hundreds of Christians. We then went upstairs in the market place to the little open air eating places to look for one certain lady that had received Christ. She wasn't there but many of her family were and they rejoiced to see us also. As we fellowshiped with them an Indian man that was eating there wanted to talk with us. He said, "Would you please come to my village and do what you have done here in Huatusco?" "I remember when you were ambushed and how you were treated back then, but we promise that we won't attack you or try to kill you if you will only come back and teach us about Jesus!" Glory to our mighty God!! We of course promised that as long as God was willing we would come back there to his village next year in December. Again we were in awe of how God had taken the seed that we sowed and built HIS church in that place! We also praise God for hearing that many of the alcoholics that were saved are now pastors and evangelists!

We then went down the mountain to a village in the valley. The night I was ambushed, Vaughn wasn't with me because he had felt led, at the age of 14, to go minister in the valley alone. He was gone for three weeks ministering in several villages. He later took Betty and I down there and we saw a few people receive the word of the Lord with joy. So we began searching for the one village we remembered the most. The problem was we couldn't remember any names of the villages or any of the peoples names either. The only thing that I remembered was that the main village had a little cement dam that the small river ran across. So when we got into the area we just let the Holy Spirit lead us. We kept asking different people about the village with the little dam and finally someone thought they remembered it being in the village of San Jose. So, by faith, we drove about 2 hours down a dirt road passing other villages and finally came to the one we thought was San Jose. It was now a small town, quite different from the few little huts that

were there when we had first ministered there. Then Vaughn saw a young man and felt led to stop and talk to him while I went across the street to talk to a woman. As I was explaining to her who we were and what we had done there so long ago, she looked across the street and said, "Is that your son?" I replied that he was my son and she said, "Well, he is talking to the son of the pastor, whose name is Paco." As soon as I heard the name, I knew we were in the right place, because Paco and his family were the first ones to receive the Lord in that village. Meanwhile, as Vaughn began talking with the young man, whose name is Noel, he very quickly said, "You are Vaughn, I remember you, we worked in the fields together when you first came to our village to minister!" Isn't God good? And isn't His power so very great!! We were so astounded that the Holy Spirit had led us directly to the right village and to the exact people that we needed to see. What another glorious night of ministry and fellowship we had in this village. And, we can't leave out the man that rode up on a bicycle and when he saw and heard who we were was so overwhelmed with joy. He was from a nearby village that we had also ministered in during the same time. He told us that he is now the pastor of a little church of 75 people that he has won to the Lord and that we MUST come to his village to witness the great things the Lord has done there. We do plan, the Lord willing, to go back there next year too. He said, "We still remember everything you taught us and we are still doing it." "You told us that we must never forget to win the lost to Christ or we would stagnate and die, so every Saturday we split up in teams and go door to door witnessing to the lost." I could hardly believe my ears, but what a blessing to hear those words!! We could hardly retain our joy as we rejoiced once again to witness how wonderfully Jesus had built HIS church!

Well, this is getting long so I'll jump ahead to our future plans. Vaughn and I are leaving Feb. 17th for the Amazon jungle in Brazil, South America. As a lot of you know we lived there for six years searching for unreached tribes. Vaughn met his wife, Irene, there. She is a member of the Wai Wai tribe with whom we did a lot of exploratory work. Her grandfather, Elka, was the grand chief of all the Wai Wai and came to Christ in 1963. Irene's father, Asado, is now chief of the tribe on the river Jatapuzin. There are five Wai Wai villages in different parts of the jungle, far apart. In Elka's lifetime he discovered seven other wild tribes and led them to the Lord. He passed away five years ago. Before he died he told his people that if they ever lost the vision for evangelizing lost souls they would grow weak and begin to fall away from the Lord. This has been happening just like he said, especially among the youth. Vaughn has always had a burden to go and encourage them to again start searching for the lost tribes, to renew their faith, and strengthen them in their service to the Lord. So, he is very happy that the Lord is taking us back down there. And, we are encouraged because recently a lost tribe has been found and has already started to awaken the Wai Wai people. It was a purely accidental occurrence for them to find this tribe, but it really wasn't accidental, because we know that God had it all planned out. It has renewed a fire in them to again begin evangelizing the jungle tribes. There are still many undiscovered tribes to be reached. You must understand that the Amazon jungle is approximately 1.6 million square miles and is part of many countries, the biggest part being in Brazil. The Indians that were just discovered are stone-age people, with no clothes or modern tools, and they thought they were the only people on earth. Each tribe has their own language so when you find them you must learn it so you can tell them the gospel. In this case though, God performed a miracle, because they speak the same Wai Wai language! So the Wai Wai brothers are able to minister the gospel to them right now. Vaughn also speaks fluent Wai Wai and can minister in their language. Praise God for miracle working power! Vaughn and myself want to fulfill the mission the Lord has laid on our hearts. We want to encourage the Wai Wai to keep the fire going in their hearts to get to the lost, to work while there is still light, as Jesus said to do. We ask all of you to pray for our trip there and back, that we will be continually led by the Holy Spirit, that he will keep us well from malaria and the many tropical diseases that exist there, and the many dangers from the animals and other jungle things. We are so excited, we can hardly wait to leave! We will be gone a month, returning the middle of March.

We also ask for prayers for our families as they stay behind in the States. It's almost as hard for them as it is for us as they have many needs to be met too. We leave them in your and the Lord's care. We thank all of you who remember to pray for us, and we do also pray for you. We also thank those of you who support us financially. Without your help we couldn't carry on this ministry. Well we would, but we couldn't get near as much done for the Lord and it would be much more difficult. But please remember you all have a part in every soul that comes to Christ. A soul is the only thing you can take to heaven with you so they are the most important things in a Christian's life. We love the way the Body of Christ works and how he uses each member in his or her place to get this gospel out to the whole world! To go or to send, there is no difference, they are of equal importance to the Lord. We want you to know God has used each of you to help us whether by prayer or finances or encouragement and God has always met our needs wonderfully well. Right now we want to share with you that we do have financial needs and we trust our Lord to speak to those who are able to give. To those who have the ministry of praying, we ask for prayers for our financial situation. We know God is able and He has never let us down. Glory to His Name!!

I will close now saying that we love you all, and may our Glorious Heavenly Father richly bless you all !!!!!!!!!!!

Donations: make checks payable to:

Yours in the Lord's service,

GOFF MINISTRIES
2215 49th St.
Lubbock, TX 79412

THE GOFF'S
Larry and Betty Goff
and
Vaughn, Irene, Esther, Ephraim and Benjamin Goff

Larry and Betty's home phone: 806-765-0335

Larry's cell ph.: 806-789-2255 Betty's cell ph.: 806-789-1707 Vaughn's phone: 806-744-7742

Website: www.goffministries.org Email: larry@goffministries.org or vaughn@goffministries.org