

GOFF MINSTRIES 2215 49th ST. LUBBOCK, TX 79412

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YOU'RE INVITED TO:

<p>A WELCOME HOME FELLOWSHIP MEETING FOR: Vaughn & Irene and Family (Home from the Amazon Jungle)</p>	<p>GOING AWAY FELLOWSHIP FOR: Larry Goff, and Blaine & Heather Poe and kids (Leaving for the Northwest Territories of CANADA).</p>
<p>Date: Saturday, March 27th 3:00pm till ??? Location: The Girl Scout Service Center 901 West Dengar Midland, TX</p>	<p>This is a POT LUCK dinner so bring a dish if you can, but come anyway if you can't. Looking forward to seeing all of you there, for a great day of fellowship and testimonies. PTL!!</p>

Newsletter from the Amazon Mission

03-20-04

Dear Family in Christ Jesus,

I pray that this letter finds you enjoying the wondrous peace that comes from knowing our Lord Jesus. There are many things happening in the world today that can, if we let them, cause us great concern. Praise the Lord that all we have to do as Christians is place all our concerns on Jesus, and we can find rest and peace even in these troubled times.

Today marks exactly one week since our arrival back in the US from the Amazon. It has been a week of re-adjusting and settling back into our home. It was a blessing that we returned at the beginning of spring break, which allowed the kids a full week to rest and get ready to re-enter school on Monday. Please pray for them, that they will be able to get back up to speed, as they were not able to study as much as we had hoped for while they were in the Amazon. I myself, am six months behind on my paper work, taxes and updating the Goff Ministries web site. Right now, I cannot see how I will dig myself out of this deep hole, nevertheless I will just tackle one thing at a time and leave the rest to the Lord.

I cannot begin to tell you all the wonderful things that the Lord has done and is doing in the Amazon. Scarcely a day went by that I did not see the hand of God move in some way. Much as a chess player first positions his pieces before he mounts his attack, each day I saw the Lord moving things into place, towards a goal that with human eyes I can only guess at, but that I feel in my spirit is greater than I can possibly imagine. Some of the pieces I saw moved into place seemed to be minor such as pawns, while others struck me as pieces of great importance such as knights or even a queen. Even in the last two days before our departure from the Amazon Mission, the Lord moved two more pieces of utmost importance into place. I must say that while my spirit has been incredibly fortified and excited in seeing the hand of the Lord move in such mighty ways, I also must confess that my flesh is trembling inwardly. For our Lord does not move in such mighty ways to achieve a little cause, and I feel unworthy to be a witness to it and wonder that I may be inadequate for the task assigned to me. I can now see very clearly that all the knowledge and skills that I have learned over the past fifteen years living in the US, from construction to economics and computers to politics, will be vitally essential to the fulfillment of the Amazon mission and will be used to their maximum potential.

I know that up until now I have written rather ambiguously about the things the Lord has done and is doing, and there are reasons for that. But do not fear, some specifics are yet to come. One of the reasons that I have not been specific up until now is that I would have to give you a twenty year history of each person involved for you to grasp the full meaning and grandeur of what God is doing and what part that person will play in the completion of God's will for the Amazon Mission. The other reason is that there is no way I can convey to you how strongly the Holy Spirit is confirming each one of these things inside of me. Nevertheless, I will give it a try.

When I left for the Amazon on, October 25th, 2003, I left alone. The Lord had not provided a brother from the US to go with me, and I had not a single brother in the Lord in Brazil that had made a commitment to the Amazon Mission. When Dad and I went to the Amazon in February of 2003, I had been on the look out for people I felt would be an asset to the Amazon Mission. On our whole trip, I was led to four men that I felt would be great for the mission. These men were John, Reginaldo, Jonas, and Brito. I was drawn to each one of these men like a magnet and I told Dad, "I would sure like it if God would lead them to be part of the Amazon Mission". I must tell you here that John and Reginaldo are Irene's uncles and that they have been my close friends and brothers in Christ for the past 20 years. But Jonas and Brito, I had never met before. Jonas was not a professing Christian at that time, and Brito was a very young Christian. Without letting them know anything about my future plans for the Amazon Mission, I questioned each one of these men individually, probing them to see if they had any thoughts of serving God full-time. Each of them had stable, good paying jobs for the government, which they had held for many years and were quite content where they were. I was very discouraged at this point and wondered if I was to truly walk alone in this effort, but I placed my faith in my Master and left it up to Him.

And so, eight months later I boarded a plane for the Amazon alone, with only the certainty that it was where the Lord wanted me to go. I landed in Manaus, Brazil at 2:00am October 26th. Ciso, my brother Victor's brother-in-law, met me at the airport. Victor had arranged for him to meet me there and help me with some heavy baggage Victor had sent, full of

gifts for his In-laws. He asked me if I wanted to go to a hotel, but I said that I would be glad to stay wherever he was staying if they had room for me. He was sleeping in a hammock on the open porch of a friend's house, and they happened to have an old cot out there also. I crashed on the cot and did not wake until the next morning. Sometime during the night someone covered me with a blanket, but I do not know who or when. Ciso, took it upon himself to lead me around Manaus for two days to buy the essentials for the start of the mission base. I got to know him better during this time and on the last day I asked him if he would be interested in working for me as a hired hand to help me build the Amazon Mission base. He thought about it a little and said, "Yes!". Even though I had hired Ciso to be with me, it felt good not to be alone on the two-day road trip back to Entre Rios (the last village before you get to the Jatapu River). He was a young Christian, married with a 3 yr. old daughter and one on the way, and with no job. It felt good to be helping him and there was an eagerness in his spirit. Little did I know then how valuable he would become to the building of the mission base. He worked with me until January, until I had no more money to pay him. Even then it took Jonas, Brito, and myself to convince him to leave and find gainful employment to support his wife and new baby boy (Moses). He still considers himself part of the Amazon Mission and does whatever he can to help and will be ready in a heart beat if he is needed.

He and I rode bikes the 20 kilometers to the edge of the Jatapu River, the day after we arrived in Entre Rios. We hacked our way through the jungle with machetes, (the old trail had disappeared), down the edge of the river for 3 kilometers to get to where the old mission base used to be. The one thing that struck me when I got to the edge of the river and even on the road as we rode our bikes, was how desolate the place had become. There were far fewer people living along the road than back in 1983 when Dad and I first arrived here, and there was nobody living along the river. The old Amazon Mission had all but been erased by the jungle. All that was left were a few hardwood posts that marked the former location of our houses. Ciso and I were tired, dirty and itchy by the time we got there, so we took a swim in the river to cool off. Then we caught some fish and roasted them over a fire. It was late in the afternoon so we decided to wait until the cool of the morning to survey the land and mark the boundaries of the new Amazon Mission. We slept that night out on the rocks by the river. The next morning as we chopped our way through the thick brush, we found a host of fruit trees that had survived the 15 years of choking jungle, and had even multiplied. I thanked the Lord for them and shed tears of joy as we found one after another hidden amongst the thick brush. I knew that the Lord had preserved them for me. Over the next two months as the jungle was slowly cleared away to reveal what the Lord had hidden, most peoples jaws dropped when they saw the place for the first time after it had been cleaned up and they exclaimed, "It's a little paradise!" Almost everybody that is new to the place cannot believe that they used to pass by it unaware that anyone had ever lived there!

It reminds me of how God must look at us while we are yet sinners. We must look an awful lot like the Mission Base before it was cleaned up, full of twisted vines and spiny trees with no apparent beauty to the natural eye. Most people that see us just brush us off as worthless, but God sees a beautiful paradise inside of us just waiting to be shown to the world, if we will just let Him clean us up.

This was the first piece that I recognized that God had moved into place. He had preserved and hidden the Amazon Mission Base from public view for over fifteen years, so that it would be available when the time was right. So what about a helper, to care for the mission base in my absence? I kept asking the Lord if brother, Ciso, was the one that He would call into this roll, but the Lord would not confirm this in my spirit. The first week I was there, I made a trip out to the little town of Caroebe, to visit Jonas. Jonas was one of the four men I was drawn to on the first trip with Dad. He was not following the Lord at that time as I have already stated, but things had radically changed in his life from February to October 2003. I contacted just about all of you back around May of 2003, requesting urgent prayer for a couple that had accidentally poisoned themselves with ant poison and had suffered a complete nervous system shut down. They were at deaths door when I received a call from Reginaldo. Their names are Jonas and Anita. It was not until I visited Jonas on that day in Caroebe, that I heard the wonderful testimony of God's power and all that had happened during their time in the hospital.

Jonas was raised as the son of a pastor of the Assemblies of God church. Like a lot of pastor's sons he was turned off to the Gospel by the hypocrisies and corruption in the organized church establishment and the hollow religious rituals that he saw growing up. But when he lay in the hospital dying, he reached out to a real Jesus and placed his faith in Him. Then came the day that the doctor came in while Jonas was at his worse. His whole body was convulsing uncontrollably and his blood pressure was through the ceiling. The doctor looked down at him and said, "I am sorry, there is nothing I can do for you. You are going to die!" Jonas could only remember one scripture and with all his strength he spoke it out to the doctor, "Jesus said, He that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25). A few minutes afterwards Jonas's eyes went dark, although he could still hear what was being said in his room. He heard the doctor say, "He is dead, he has stopped breathing and his heart has stopped. Take his body to the morgue." Jonas told me, that he felt as though he was light as a feather and that he was starting to float upwards. Once again he quoted, John 11:25 in his mind, "He that believes on Jesus, though he die, yet shall he live". Suddenly he felt as though he was drifting down back onto the hospital bed, and then his vision returned and his heart started beating again. Praise the Lord!

When I walked up to his house on that day back in November of 2003, I found Jonas and His wife sitting on the curb talking. I asked them how they were doing, and we talked about what had happened to them. When I got up to leave, I

looked at Jonas, and said, "Jonas, I want you to pray and ask God to show you if you are supposed to be a part of the Amazon Mission. Jonas went to speak, but I stopped him and said, "This is a serious life change and commitment that I am talking about. You must realize that, if you side with me and join the Amazon Mission, there will be repercussions because of who I am and what I am here to do. I want you to pray about it for a few weeks before you give me an answer." I prayed with them and left. I returned three weeks later and I did not make it through the door before Jonas blurted out, "I want to be a part of the Amazon Mission! I'll do anything you tell me to do, just please teach me the Bible. We don't have anything to offer, we don't even have any food to feed ourselves, and I am not sure how we will make it, but I know that this is what God wants me to do." I reached over put my arm around him and said, "Welcome!, How does it feel to be a missionary for Jesus? Now, first thing I am going to teach you is that God is your boss, not me! You need to do only that which God tells you to do. I am your brother in Christ and a fellow missionary."

Jonas and his wife, Anita, came to live at the Amazon Mission in January. They are very young in the Lord but full of faith and eager to serve the Lord with all of their hearts. Please remember to pray for them on a daily basis as they are coming into the rainy season in the Amazon right now.

This letter is drawing extraordinarily long, as I knew it would if I tried to share some details of what the Lord is doing in the Amazon. As you can see from just these two things I have written about, the Lord is working in miraculous and wondrous ways. I am on my third page and I have just scratched the surface of a couple of the things the Lord has done. There is so much more to tell, nevertheless, it will have to wait until we see you in person, hopefully in the coming months. I just want to tell you a couple more things before I close. Do you remember the four names I gave you of the men I felt I wanted to part of the Amazon mission? They were Jonas, John, Reginaldo and Brito. Well, John was the head of the medical clinic in Jatapuzine (Wai Wai Indian village). On March, 6th he moved to the Amazon Mission. Reginaldo, was the government school professor at Jatapuzine. He was suddenly and inexplicable transferred to a school only 3 miles from the Amazon Mission base. Brito is the bus driver for the hydroelectric dam, and is in the process of starting the construction of his house only 200 yards down stream from the Amazon Mission. There is also an additional man that has started living on the river down stream from us. His name is Carlos. He just so happens to be very skilled at making lumber with a chainsaw, which is something that I could not have built the Amazon Mission without!! (What do you think? Do you think maybe our awesome God knew I would need a chainsaw man?!).

There is a tremendous story of God's power behind each one of these persons being where they are and bringing them to the Amazon Mission. Just to peak your curiosity a little, here are a few things that they have in common. First, they are all inter-married, Wai Wai with Brazilian (Like Irene and I). Second, they are all educated, respected and highly influential members of either the Brazilian community, the Wai Wai community, or both. Third, they are all directly related to me through my marriage to Irene. Also, Anita, Reginaldo and John are the sons and daughter of Elka who was the High Chief and spiritual leader of the Wai Wais and is still thought of as the last true chief. If you look at all these things combined and consider that all these people were brought to the Amazon Mission by the hand of God, you can clearly see that God is setting the stage for something great. If you also consider that God has brought all these people together in less then a six months period to live at or near the Amazon Mission, a place that no one had chosen to live at for over fifteen years, it is easy to see the hand of God moving in a swift and decisive manner.

For space sake I must stop here. I pray that the rich blessing of the Lord be upon you all, and that the peace of the Lord will fill your homes. I will be scheduling my meetings with you all for April as soon as possible, so expect a call. If anyone would like to schedule a meeting please call or email me. Thanks and God Bless!

On the front lines for Jesus,
Vaughn, Irene, Esther, Ephraim, & Benjamin

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P.S. Larry and the Poe family will be leaving for the Northwest Territories around the first week of April. As soon as they get all the loose ends tied up. Please remember them in prayer. It is a long hard trip, probably about ten days or more. Also, Larry will be towing up a 25ft. travel -trailer for the Poe's to live in, so pray for no vehicle problems. Betty will be staying home for the time being as her parents are not well and need a lot of care. She will go up in July, the Lord willing, for a couple of months. God has been doing some wonderful things in the home meetings, and street and bar ministry while Larry has been here in the US too. Many have confessed Christ as Savior, been healed, delivered from drugs etc. Glory to God! Thank you all for standing with us financially and prayerfully, we couldn't do it without you. We are now supporting six families in Goff Ministries. Three new ones in the Amazon at the mission base, and three here. We know our God can and will supply all our needs for all three ministries, the Amazon, the Northwest Territories and the United States. We thank God daily for each of you and for you knowing who you are in Christ and where you are in His Body. As we all work together, the Gospel will be preached in many places and perhaps hasten Christ's return! Hallelujah!! We love you all, God bless you each one.

Also, on the front lines for Jesus,

Larry and Betty Goff and Blaine, Heather, Tray & Garrett Poe

First Tarp Shelter at The Amazon Mission



First Post of our house



Jonas, Anita, Otoniel, Cesiel & Talita



John, Anna & Victoria



Carlos & Zezinhia (Right) Amuyaka & daughter (left)



Brother & Sisters now living at the Amazon Mission

