

GOFF MINISTRIES
2215 49th St. Lubbock, TX 79412
PH. 806-765-0335

11-05-04

Precious Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Again we must beg your forgiveness for not writing in so long. We can only say that we have been hard about the Father's business. You know we never forget about any of you even though we may be out of contact for a little while and we thank you for not forgetting about this ministry and us either. God will and does bless you I know. We appreciate your prayers and support more than we can say! We also appreciate working together with you all to get the gospel to places that have not had the TRUE gospel, or have never heard it for the first time!! Yes, there really are places like that left in the world!

Larry had a blessed and very successful six months in the Northwest Territories, Canada. Praise the Lord! As you know he went back up in April and it was still 40 and 50 below zero with lots of snow and ice. The lake was still completely frozen over, as well as the rivers. So, he stayed in Ft. Resolution and ministered to the people there. He was amazed upon arriving to have such a great welcome from everyone. Even the unbelievers were happy to see him and said how happy they were that he had returned, that they had missed him. The Word of the Lord never returns void, praise His name! Larry had planted a lot of spiritual seed last year and it had fallen on good soil and produced much fruit. God had broken down a lot of the resistance to the gospel and the strongholds that Satan had built up over those people had begun to crumble. Glory to God and for all of you praying with us!! Keep praying! The prayers of the righteous are powerful! In Ft. Resolution they had bible studies around a bon-fire almost every night, out behind Rabbit's house. They didn't even invite people to come, they would just see the fire and come, even in the freezing cold! Everybody would bring some moose meat, fish, caribou or even hot dogs and hamburgers and cook it over the fire for everyone to eat. And of course, bannock! That is sort of like our biscuits here, only sometimes they put raisins in them. They would play the guitars and sing and get into the scriptures and just have wonderful times. Even some of the head Medicine Men and Women felt comfortable enough to come around a fire to hear about Jesus!! Hallelujah!!

Larry had taken Blaine and Heather Poe and their two small sons up with him to train and disciple in missionary work. They had never been on the mission field before. And even though there is every modern convenience up there, it was still quite a culture and climate change. They had their ups and downs adjusting, but we feel that they learned a lot and are now able to have the faith to go out and serve God on their own, wherever He may lead them. We thank the Lord we could be a part of their spiritual growth.

Larry and Blaine did make a trip to Yellowknife, the capital city, to minister, in the bars and down on the riverbank to teen-age drug addicts. Even showed a film in a parking lot. The response was great; there's just not room to tell everything in one letter. Souls were touched and changed by the Lord Jesus Christ is what's important. They also did the same kind of ministering in Hay River, the town 100 miles from Ft. Resolution.

Larry tried every possible way to fix the pontoons, but without success. Thank you brother who sent the aluminum patch material. Larry just could never get all the holes stopped. He could use the boat for about four hours at a time though, so was able to continue to take the kids and elders out to fish and have Bible studies. Praise God for that! Anyway, he has decided to build his own fiberglass pontoons and take them back up there with him in June, when he goes back. Please be in prayer that the Lord leads us to the right people to help with this project, as Larry has very little experience working with fiberglass. With you and us and God all working together, I know it will turn out fine!

I went up to be with Larry in July and we came home in September, just in time to help Vaughn and Irene get off to the Amazon. I enjoyed my time up there very much. It was good to be with my husband again and to be a part of the work going on there. The weather was nice, but we never did really have a summer. Only had about three days that we had to use the air conditioner.

Larry and I felt led of God to go over to the Mackenzie River and what a wonderful time of ministry we had! We camped out right on the river, just outside a small village called Wrigley. We met a group of about six Christians there who invited us to show a film in the little abandoned church. Many unbelievers came also and we had a good time of bible study and fellowship with all of them. Larry had been feeling the call to expand the ministry out to more villages and we were ecstatic to find that about 90% of all the population in the Northwest Territories live along the Mackenzie River. We knew this was the Lord as it confirmed the desire of Larry's heart. PTL! He can leave Wrigley and head north on the river and go 1000 miles and preach in every village, clear up into the Arctic Ocean with the Eskimos. He is so excited to get back up there!! The only way you can get to these villages is by boat or a float- plane, so we really do need to get those pontoons fixed!

Since coming home, Larry has been gone almost constantly ministering. He has really enjoyed being with all you brothers and sisters that he sees in the meetings. He is planning a trip down to check on the Seri Indians in Old Mexico for a month, just after Thanksgiving until Christmas. David Jolly from Abilene will be going with him. Keep them in your prayers. But, until then, or beginning in January, if you would like to have Larry come minister in your home group or church, please contact us at 806-765-0335. I have stayed home most of the time to try and catch up on all the work that's so far behind! I am also taking care of Vaughn's daughter, Esther, as she finishes her last year of high school. Also I have had some health problems and continue to need prayer for my health. We also had to go to California to see Larry's brother, Bernie, as he was gravely ill in the hospital. We thank the Lord that God raised him up once again though and he is home now. He still needs your prayers though.

We love you all and know that we can't do this ministry without your help, so we do thank you once again for being a part and doing your part in the Body of Christ. May God return His blessings to you many times over in the very special way that you need it!

Your servants in the Lord's harvest fields,

Larry and Betty Goff and Esther

DONATIONS:

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VAUGHN'S NEWSLETTER
FROM THE AMAZON

11-01-04

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At long last I am able to send you the update I am sure you have been longing for. It has been almost a month since we boarded the plane in Lubbock, but it seems as though it has been a year. And yet it also seems as though we just got here, for we are still settling back into our house. So much has happened in this last month that it would be impossible to relay it all in this letter, so I will just touch on some highlights.

First off, I want to thank you all for your earnest prayers on the 2nd of October as we crossed the border into Brazil. There were many rumors of barricades Satan had built to hinder us, but Praise the Lord not one of them held against the flood of prayers that went up from all of you. We made it through immigrations with out a hitch, and were not even questioned about the massive amount of luggage and equipment that we were entering into Brazil with. As best as I could tell, the immigration's computers were down at the time we crossed the border, for they were writing everything by hand. The trip was long and we were very tired when we reached the hotel we were going to stay at, at 3:30am. The first hotel we tried had no vacancies so our taxi driver took us to a hotel that was unknown to me. It turned out to be a better and cheaper hotel then the first one and was right next door to the only bank in Manaus were we can use our ATM cards to extract funds from our US bank accounts. Is the Lord Great or what? Even when we are tired, He is watching out for us and taking care of needs that we have not even asked Him for.

We stayed 2 days in Manaus as it was the day before the statewide elections and all buses to the state of Roraima were full. It gave us time to recuperate and to let brothers Bob and Brian get a good dose of Manaus, the capital of the Amazon. Our next hurdle was the state border- check on our way to Roraima. Because of our massive and unusual baggage, there was the possibility of search and seizure at the state border, but the border guards just waved our bus through. PTL!

We decided to go straight to Boa Vista, the Capital of Roraima, to start my Permanent Visa application right away. Doing any kind of paper work in Brazil is an exercise in patience and determination. There seems to be no end to the bunny trails they will send you on in order to get even the simplest paper work done. It seems as though you have to take ten steps backwards to go one step forwards, only to find you must take ten more steps backwards. To make a long story short, we ended up staying two very long and hot weeks out in Boa Vista. Even though Bob and Brian have done great and have made a valiant effort to adapt to the climate and culture, they could not hide the fact that they longed to get out of Boa Vista. Each day was very hot and humid, even for the Amazon, and it seemed as though we were getting nothing done. But the Lord had a reason for us to stay there all that time. The first reason was to minister to and strengthen the body of Christ there. Something I had not been able to do last year. The hand of God moved in obvious ways everyday. Important contacts were made that will help this mission in the future. Also, we were able to minister heavily to Valter, the man that came to the mission base last year from the state government. He is a backslidden Christian who has lost faith because of all the corruption he has seen, in both the political realm and the organized church. I know that he is still searching in his heart though, for he will stop at nothing to help this mission and me. I think deep inside he believes this is the last hope he has of seeing something that is holy and real, that is not just another well -disguised scheme. I know the Lord kept us out in Boa Vista to minister to him. The Lord demonstrated His power in many ways to Valter. Let me tell you about one of them.

Another thing we were doing out in Boa Vista was looking for a used truck we could afford. This is a tall order for this area, because trucks of any kind hold their value like gold, even when they are falling apart. Valter went to work on this immediately, with the vigor of a hound chasing a raccoon! But, after a week we had found nothing in our price range of \$5,000. Even trucks that were not running were priced higher then what we had, and there seemed to be no hope of finding anything at all! Giving in to the supplication of everyone to get out of the hot and miserable Boa Vista, I hired a van to haul us to Entre Rios. Everyone was relieved and excited to finally be getting out of Boa Vista, and I even jokingly said that I thought I would cancel the van. Nobody laughed, and I was threatened with being choked if I did. Ha! Well, that very night I went to the pay phone to inform Mom that we would be heading for the mission base the next day. On my way back to the house where we were staying, I saw a very nice truck sitting almost in front of the house. Low and behold, it had a FOR SALE SIGN in the window! A young man was standing by it and we asked him about it? He said it was an old truck but they had taken good care of it. They had made many alterations to it. They had converted it from gasoline to diesel and had had a custom dually differential put on it. Bob, who is a diesel engine mechanic (hum... Thank you Lord), checked it out and said that it sounded perfect. As I heard all that they had done to it, my heart sank deeper and deeper, for I just knew they would want more than I could afford. Finally I asked how much he wanted for it? \$4,700 was the answer. I called Valter from a payphone and got him out of bed that night and got the ball rolling to buy the truck! I also called and canceled the van I had hired. Don't worry, Bob only choked me a little! Ha! Ha!

I can only take out a limited amount of money each day using the ATM card and it would take about 7 days for me to get out \$4,800, so I started to look for alternative ways to get the money. I thought I might be able to take out a cash advance on a credit card the next day. At that time I felt that if it were God's will for us to have this truck I would be able to do it that way. The next day Valter took me to bank after bank and none of them would do it for me. Finally we went to Valter's personal bank. As soon as we walked through the door we saw a distraught man talking to the manager of the bank in English. I asked the manager if I could be of some assistance? The manager explained that the man had had some money wired to him and that it was ready for him to receive, but that the bank could not give it to him. The Brazilian government requires a CPF number (kind of like a Social Security number) before a bank can release funds to an individual. I explained the problem to the man (Michael), in English, and his face turned to desperation. He told me he was from South Africa and he had been mugged two weeks prior and all his money and plane tickets were stolen. The money that had been wired to him was for his plane tickets home. He said he had had nothing to eat for two weeks and he

was desperate! I asked the manager what the solution to his problem was? Valter stepped up and offered to help if the man would trust him. I told Michael all this and he accepted with out hesitation, which just goes to show you how desperate he was. I told Valter to write his name on a piece of paper so the man could call his brother who had sent the money to him. When Valter handed me the paper I noticed that he had written not only his name, but also his bank account number and the bank routing number. I said, "Valter, he does not need all this information, he just needs your name." Remembering some recent scams that have originated in South Africa, I told Valter that I did not feel comfortable giving all this information to someone who was going to send it all to South Africa. I stuck the piece of paper in my pocket and wrote Valter's name on another piece of paper and gave it to Michael. After Michael had called his brother to make the change, I took to him to a restaurant to get some food into him. He ate just a few bites and became sick, for he had not eaten in so long. We made sure he had a hotel room to stay in for the night, because it would be the next day before we could get the money out for him. We spent the rest of the day trying to get the money I needed to buy the truck, with no success. That night I found an all night Internet café and began searching for a way for me to get the money. Late that night I found that I could do an electronic funds transfer from my credit card via the Internet to a personal bank account in Brazil. When I came to the receiver page and began to fill out the form, I found that I needed a name, a bank account number, and the bank routing number. A certain piece of paper that was sitting in my shirt pocket came to mind. On that piece of paper were Valter's name, his bank account number and his bank's routing number. I can tell you that there was a lot of rejoicing in that Internet café that night between Bob and myself. The next day after Michael got his money I said to Valter, "Valter, do you realize that God has used you to help that man? That even when you thought you had made a mistake by writing down all that information, it was actually God that was guiding your hand?" I put my hand on his shoulder and said, "God has kept me here so that He could show Himself to you! Valter, just because there is a lot of corruption in the world and in the organized church, that does not mean that God is not real." I know all this has moved Valter and I ask you to continue to pray that his faith will be renewed.

The truck has turned out to be real blessing. As Bob put it, "I believe God had this truck built just for this mission!" The owner turned out to be a Baptist preacher who later said that he had prayed that the truck would be bought by someone who would use it in the work of the Lord.

At long last we finally made it home on Sunday the 17th of October. We were greeted warmly and with much rejoicing by all those at the mission base. I was happy to find that everything was running the way I had left it. After a few days of much needed R&R, Bob and I have been hard at work trying to get our power system up and running. We have had a lot of set backs but I think we are on the right track now. Brother Bob has been a real blessing in this area and I don't know how I would have been able to do this without him. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of energy generation. Once again the Lord has shown that He is providing for my needs that I have not even asked him for.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us. Until we get our power system running right we will be making weekly trips out to the Brazilian villages to show the gospel films with the film equipment the Lord blessed us with. We showed a film in the village of Entre Rios last week. It was a great success, with 110 people attending, most of whom were not Christians. The word has gotten around and I expect a very large crowd this next Friday when will show our next film. Everybody wants to see the Passion of the Christ, but I feel the Lord telling me to wait until a better time when their hearts are more prepared.

Well, I could go on and on, but I will have to stop here for now. I just want to ask you to lift Brian up in prayer as he has developed a swollen saliva gland in his right cheek that is causing him a lot of discomfort. I also need prayer for my right arm. I hurt it the other day while hunting. I tried to climb a tree to get some palm fruit and pulled something in my elbow. The pain was so severe that I became dizzy and almost fainted. My arm fell limp to my side and I was unable to lift it for over an hour. Brother Jonas and I were deep in the jungle at the time with no trail out, so I had to hack my way through the jungle with my left arm for about a half a mile. At one point I caught sight, (with my peripheral vision), of a deadly bushmaster snake laying on a limb off of my left side. I instinctively jumped to my right and spun around and shouted at Jonas to stop!! Jonas stopped about ten inches from the snake but did not see it because it was about 4 feet off the ground laying flat on a horizontal limb. I saw the snake recoil to strike Jonas and swung at it with the machete in my left hand cutting its head off as it was about to strike. This all happened in split seconds! The snake's body fell inches from Jonas's feet. I know I don't need to say this again, but I will anyway, THANK FOR YOUR PRAYERS!! May God bless and keep you all.

On the front line for Jesus,
Vaughn, Irene, Ephraim & Benjamin
Also, Bob, Brian, Jonas (and family) and John (and family)

P.S. From Betty- Nov.5th,

Just a quick update. Things are going well at the mission. The school is going great. They have about a dozen kids right now and more soon to come. They had over 30 people at the church service last Sunday. They are ministering every day to people passing through, whether Indians or Brazilians. They had an extra 15 hammocks strung up in their house the other day, besides their own. They really need to wall in the space under their house for all the visitors that come by. Understand, when people come to visit the mission, they nearly always stay at least one night, usually more! They also plan to start work on the community service building as soon as it stops raining so much. The rainy season is still going very heavy right now, but the Lord is keeping the mosquitoes away from the mission! Hallelujah! Because of all that is being done for the Lord's Kingdom there in the Amazon, Satan is fighting hard too! Vaughn cut his foot very bad while working on the hydro-electric generator out in the river, and John got a punctured eardrum when his guitar string broke as he was playing and sprung up and went through his eardrum. They are going out to Entre Rios to show a film tomorrow night, then on to Boa Vista to work on getting the land registered. The roads are horrible! Many mud holes 3 feet deep! Pray God's protection over all those at the mission, and for their travels on the muddy roads. Pray the truck can make it through! Thanks and God bless you all!