

**GOFF MINISTRIES**  
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Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As I begin this letter I pause to thank the Lord for each and every one of you. Once again I find myself wanting to apologize for not having written to you for so long. At the sake of sounding redundant, please forgive me once again.

It is now 8:30pm here in Manaus where I sit and type this letter, and in exactly six hours I will head for the Manaus International airport where I will meet Dad who should just be taking off from Miami, Florida. I cannot tell you how happy I am that the Lord has brought him down here, as I am in much need of his encouragement and the good tidings he is bringing from all of you. I want to thank you all for making it possible for him to come and be with me.

There are so many things I want to tell you about, that have happened at the Amazon Mission Base since the last time I wrote to you, and I find myself wanting to tell you everything in detail. Of course if I did that, I would need to find a publicist, for this would certainly become a very large book. Instead I pray the Lord will guide me over these next lines so that I can tell all that it is His will for me to write.

First off I must tell you that these last few months have been a battle. To say anything else would not be true. Although none of us have come out of this unscathed, we have not lost a single member and we have certainly grown stronger, for the joy of the Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit has been our constant companion through it all. I will not go into great detail about our struggles for I do not want to dwell on the negative, as there so many awesome and wonderful things that have happened in this time that I want to tell you about. Suffice it to say that, illness has never left our camp, mechanical failure has plagued us, and Satan as tried to sow seeds of strife in-between us. But I rejoice in the fact that all of these have been over come through our faith in Christ and our steadfast dedication to the mission for which He has called us. We stand more united in purpose and cause then ever before and the Lord has joined a new laborer to us of whom I will tell you about later on. Your prayers have been coveted through all of this more then any earthly thing of value great or small. Even now as I type this letter, I do it with one eye, for the other one has been impaired for a month due to a severe illness. I have never felt anxious about it for a second though, for the Lord has given me perfect peace. I only mention it now for the sake of glorifying the mighty hand of the Lord that has strengthened me beyond that of human understanding. Even though my human eyes might be impaired, I feel as though my spiritual eyes have never seen clearer. My body is for the Lord's purpose. He knows what I need to fulfill His will. PTL!!

Now I want to fill you in on some of the events that have taken place over the last couple of months. I will not do this in chronological order, for I know there are some things that you are wondering about and I want to get to those first. I know that many of you were in deep prayer for our protection during an attempt we were involved in to remove the current chief of Jatupuzing Village, Aka. I know you are wondering what the outcome of this effort was. The simple answer is that this effort is still underway. It was only after intense prayer that I decided to support a small group of Waiwai that wanted to remove the current chief, because the risk and ramifications to me having anything to do with it are not small. But the hand of the Lord was on us at the mission base and guided us with such precision that it was undeniably His will that we join such an effort. I wish I could relay all that happened in this letter, but it will have to wait until I see you in person, for it would take me several pages just to set the scenario for you to be able to understand and recognize the mighty hand of the Lord through it all. I will say this though. When you see the Hand of God in this way, you stand back in awe and let Him do His work in you.

Speaking of the chief (Aka) of Jatapuzine Village, I want to talk a little bit more about him. The bible says to love you enemies, and this man has made it clear that he is nothing less then that, for he has set himself against

us. I once thought or had hoped that Wari, the head pastor over Jatapuzine village would be an ally in our effort to resist this man's unceasing attempts at driving the Waiwai away from the Lord and back into slavery to satan. But Wari has since shrugged off any attempt to deceive me and has firmly allied himself with Aka and has supported from the pulpit everything that Aka has proposed. It would be easy for me to hate this man for he appears to be completely controlled by Satan and seems to have the power to almost hypnotize the waiwai and bend them to his will at the drop of a hat. But I can't help but think that, as powerful as an enemy as he is for evil, if the Lord could change his heart and bring him over to our side, he would be a great ally indeed. So my prayer has been and will continue to be that the Lord change his heart and save his soul or the Lord remove him from my path. As for Wari, he has tried to avoid me at all cost, and has even gone so far as to fly out to town by airplane to avoid coming by my house (which the Lord has placed basically in the middle of the road so to speak). But on January 21<sup>st</sup> after Wari had walked 30 miles out of the way trying to avoid me, he got on a bus headed to the Atroadi Indian reservation to learn from them "The old ways" so he can teach the waiwai. What he did not know was that the Lord had told me only that morning to head out to Boa Vista, and Irene and I had hurriedly packed a few things and made it to the bus station in Entre Rios only five minutes before the bus left. When Wari got on the bus in the town of San Luis, he had no idea I was on the bus asleep with a hat over my face. When he did see me it was too late and he ducked into the nearest empty seat and hunched down so I would not see him. He sat next to the window leaving the aisle seat beside him empty, which I quickly occupied trapping him in with no way to escape. I will not say that the reproach I gave Wari was easy on him, but I will say that what I did was out of concern for him, for I hold him more responsible than Aka. Aka has never made claims to be a Christian and does not claim his purpose is for God, but what Wari does, he does in the name of God under the cloak of Christ and the hand of the Lord will not be light when it falls on him. Of course, the fact that the Lord put me on that bus in the way He did is just one example of the mighty hand of God and His guidance on us. As said to Wari "You can run, but you cannot escape the Mighty hand of God".

Now to tell about some of the awesome things that are happening at the Mission base. The Lord has been moving mightily here at the mission base amongst the people here. First off the Lord has finally given me rest from all my travels which has allowed me the time I wanted and desperately needed to edify and train my troops here at the mission base. Amazing things are happening here and the video projector and bible films have played a big part in this and I thank the Lord for them everyday. I prayed for this equipment because I believed it to be the only avenue at this time around the inadequacies of the Waiwai language. But it has proven to be much more than that, Oh so much more! Only the rain has prevented me from showing at least one bible film a night for the past two months or more, at the beseeching of all here at the mission base. For the first time they are understanding what they have been reading all these years. They watch each film like little children seeing their first fireworks display. I sit and listen to them ho and ah over every little thing. But the films are just the beginning of something more wonderful that has been an answer to my prayers. The films have sparked an explosion of hunger to learn scriptures like I have never seen before. Now that they have a picture in their minds, they can now go back and read the bible and get so much more out of it, that it is like reading it for first time. Seeing the hunger I immediately instituted daily morning bible studies at seven o'clock sharp. I believe I will never be able to sleep past seven AM again as long as I am in the Amazon. HA! It is so wonderful I can't explain it. When I came back from the US I found my troops broken down after a hard six months of rainy season. They were weak physically and spiritually for Satan had caused some strife amongst them. I thanked the Lord that they made it though, for I barley had time to assemble them and no time to train them before my visa ran out and I had to come back to the US for 6 months. I prayed night and day for them during those six months, and the Lord was faithful. Now I see them healthy and robust spiritually and gaining strength every day. Praise the Lord!

We have an addition to our troops!. His name is Yamka. He came to me as an outcast looking for work. A young man who was a child born out of wedlock, rejected by his father, abandoned by his mother, tossed to any family who would take him growing up, and left to fend for himself at age 14. Angry at the unfairness of his life he added to his rejection by careless and reckless living. As he put it, "I told myself I will just go as hard and as fast as I can regardless of who it hurts. But I think deep down inside I was really trying to kill myself to stop from hurting so much. It was like I had a huge hole in my heart and no matter how much I crammed in it I

could never fill it up.” It was then that I told him through tear filled eyes that I knew someone that could fill that hole, His name is Jesus, and that he has a father that has loved him all along and has never rejected him. A few days later I showed the Passion of the Christ film out in Entre Rios to a crowd of over 400 people. After the film was over not a person left their seat and you could have heard a pin drop during the 30 minute salvation message I preached. I said a group prayer after the message, after which to my surprise I received a loud applause. Yamka slowly walked up to me with tears streaming down his face said, “I did that to Jesus with all those sins I committed”. I said, “Yes you did Yamka, and Jesus was thinking of you when he was going through that suffering and He never stopped loving you”. Yamka, said “Yes, I know that now”. He has been a changed person from that day on. Who would have ever guessed that so much love could come out of one person. Originally, I only hired him to help chop weeds for 10 days because Jonas was sick with malaria, my arm was severely hurt, and Asatdo was still recovering from hernia surgery. He has been here going on three months now. He is a constant source of joy to me and appears to be the one that is the most open to revelation from the Holy Spirit. He has almost become an extension of myself for he seems to know what I want done before I say it. He constantly surprises me with deep statements like the one he blurted out of no where the other day while we were working. “Vaughn, he said; I think about all the people I have known, especially the ones I used to sin with. They don’t know about Jesus, not the way I know him now. They are the way they are because they don’t know what I have learned here with you. I am so happy here, because I have learned about Jesus and am really learning the bible. I want to learn more, all that I can, because my heart is burning in me to tell my friends about Jesus so they can be happy like I am. I think about the Atroadis, how bad they are. They are that way because they do not know Jesus. I want to tell them about Him. They might kill me, but that is okay because, Jesus died for me, it would be worth it to tell them about Jesus.” Just yesterday on the bus ride to Manaus I watched him as he sat and stared quietly out the window for hours. I went over and sat next him and said; “Yamka, what have you been thinking about.” “I have been thinking about all the things I have been seeing out this window, he said. The jungle and the trucks and cars that pass by. All these things will one day disappear as if they were never here. I used to want all these things, money, cars, everything. Now I realize that they are just temporary and valueless. I have no desire for them anymore. Now, I just want to tell people about Jesus.” He is a real blessing to me and I love almost like a son. I could scarcely hold back the tears a few weeks back when we were dive fishing together and we had just speared a 15 pound Traidao fish and got in the boat when he said with a somber face, “Vaughn...wherever you are when you die, no matter where I am, I will feel it and I will cry”. If all of the work here in the Amazon, was to save this one soul. It would be worth it. But I have a feeling that there will be many more Yamka’s to come!

God bless you all in the Mighty name of Jesus.

On the front lines for Jesus in the Amazon

Vaughn, Irene, Ephraim and Benjamin.

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