

Goff Ministries Inc.
2215 49th St.
Lubbock, TX 79412

August 24, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As always, I pray that this letter finds you at peace and rejoicing in the knowledge that you are a citizen of heaven and that is where your true home is. It has been some time since I last wrote a newsletter to you all (although I do send out email updates and prayer requests frequently). Please forgive me for the delay in writing this letter.

Irene and I have been so busy about the Lord's work for the last several months. So many things have happened that there is no way that I could fit them all into this short newsletter. I will try to touch on as many events as possible. But first I want to talk about what is going on right now. As I write this letter, Dad is driving home from the Artic. He has been up in the Artic for the last couple of months. I will let him tell you all about what the Lord has done on this trip. Just before Dad left on the 12-day drive to reach the Artic, he hurt his back. He was feeling much better by the time he left, but a few days into the trip he re-aggravated the injury. For the rest of the trip he has been in pain. We have been praying for him all along. In answer to an email prayer request I sent out, Dad did receive several days of relief on the return trip. He will be pulling into Lubbock this afternoon and has said that his pain has worsened again. Please keep him in your prayer for a complete healing.

The Lord has been working mightily in our lives since we have been back here in the US. As most of you know from previous newsletters, Irene and I went through some pretty rough trials shortly after returning from the Amazon last year. These events altered the course of where we thought the Lord wanted us to work for Him. It would take too long to go into the details, but suffice it to say, that I am currently unable to return to the Amazon because of the actions of the enemies of the gospel in Brazil. These actions caused Irene and I to lose, Ellie, our little girl that we had raised for four years and had adopted while in Brazil. Many of you that were on our email list experienced step by step, through my email updates, the heartache, the tears, the loss, and the comforting hand of the Lord that helped us live through this ordeal. It would be prideful and a lie for me to say that Irene and I immediately bounced back after this ordeal. The truth is, that we felt as though the wind had been knocked out of us. Emotionally we were suffering, but at the same time, there was a peace deep inside of us that stems from our faith in God, that He has a plan even though we cannot understand it. It was this faith that enabled us to love Ellie's mom, Rosie, instead of hating her for taking Ellie away from us. As a result, we have a relationship with Rosie and contact with Ellie. Rosie was simply a tool that was used by the enemies of the Gospel in a plot to destroy us. Rosie has shed many tears of regret that she allowed herself to be used by these evil people. She has offered many times to give Ellie back to us, but barring a miracle of God, at this point it is almost impossible. Rosie is very poor, and we send her money every month to make sure that Ellie is taken care of and has food to eat. Rosie has made many changes for the better since Ellie has been with her. For the first time in her life she has moved out her mothers house to get away from her gangbanger brothers who are thieves and drug dealers. Rosie is now attending church on a regular basis because Ellie relentlessly insisted on it. Rosie recently took Ellie to the Amazon Mission Base and spent a week there. PTL! All of this is such an answer to prayer. Please continue to pray that Rosie will give her life to Jesus.

Now a little about the Amazon Mission Base itself. It has continued to serve as a place of rest for travelers and a place where the truth can be shared with those that stay there. Asatdo and Yamka have withstood almost constant attacks from our enemies since I have been gone. They have done well and proven that they can stand on their own. But it appears that the current location of the Amazon Mission Base may soon come to an end. The rainy season has been exceptionally bad these last two years. The floodwaters have been five to six feet above normal rainy season highs. When we left the Amazon Mission Base last year the water was 3 feet over the bank and it had been higher then that during the previous 3 weeks. During this time we all were imprisoned in our house that is on six-foot stilts. The morning we left, a large, four foot in diameter, tree caved off into the river almost taking Astado's house with it. Many of the other trees along the riverbank have also caved off into the river. The roots of these trees (that were intentionally left there for this purpose) are the only things that keep the water from eroding the clay bank away. This year, the rainy season was worst than last year. Those at the mission base spent almost two months imprisoned in our house, by the floodwaters. Most of the last trees along the bank have caved off into the river leaving our house and Asatdo's house dangerously close to caving off into the river also. If the rainy seasons continue this way, it will only be a matter of time before both houses are lost. Also, Asatdo has informed me that most of our fruit trees did not survive the prolonged time underwater this year. With the loss of these valuable trees, good nutrition will be more difficult for those at the mission base. The Amazon Mission Base has served the purpose of the Gospel well for many years and it will continue to do so as long as God allows it to exist. Please continue to pray for those living at the mission base. Pray for their safety and provision. Pray also for their financial support because the dollar has lost half of its value against the Brazilian Real in the last year and it now costs twice as much to send them the same amount of support. Also, I would like to request special prayer for brother Yamka, who just under went hernia surgery. I have not heard from him since the surgery. Please keep him in your prayers for a quick recovery.

Now, let's come a little closer to home. When it became apparent that, at least for the time being, I could not return to Brazil, it was difficult to swallow. But God taught me long ago to trust His plan and not my own. Searching for His leading, I began to feel a deep burden for those right here in the US. I have always felt a small voice since early on in my walk with the Lord, that was saying to me that one day I would be used by the Lord to help strengthen Christians for troubled times. It seems that now that time has come.

As I have shared in many home groups and churches over the past year, I have increasingly been made aware of how unprepared many Christians are for the troubled times ahead, especially here the US. As most of you know, who have heard Dad and I testify, we have come through many hair-raising experiences. It is as if all our lives we have been put through Spiritual Survival, Training. I have felt the Lord telling me that the body of Christ is in urgent need to be taught this Spiritual Special Forces Survival Training in order to prepare them for troubled times ahead and assure them of God's power. "God is our Source", is the word that the Lord has given me to pass on to the Body of Christ. This is the message that I have shared in many places in the last year, and I will continue to do so through live testimony and eventually through the book the Lord has inspired me to write. Speaking of the book, progress has been slow because of an unending stream of computer problems and ministry demands on my time. But the book is not mine; it is the Lord's. I know it will be completed when it is God's will for it to be completed.

Another area that the Lord has burdened me with, is working with young adults. Young people here in America have so many things against them. There are so many entertainment avenues and distractions these days that it seems almost impossible to get any of our young people to sit and seriously ponder their life and listen to Godly words of wisdom. It is as if there are clouds in their minds. One way, that I have seen to be effective for persons of any age, to clear this fog away, is total separation from their normal environment. From years of experience taking people on the foreign mission field and seeing the dramatic effects it has had on those people lives, I know that this approach is very effective. Over the last year I have taken small groups on camping trips in order to minister to them. I have planned many more camping trips, but the unusual high amounts of rain this year have prevented many of them from taking place. But some were successful and I have seen some positive results.

Dad too began feeling the same leading to strengthen the Body of Christ and minister with young adults here in the US at the same time that I did. The Lord confirmed this leading through the donation of 4 acres in an isolated area north of Abilene, Texas, where we are now building a camp that will be a place we can bring these young adults to minister to them. We are just building the basic necessities. The camp is intended to be a primitive place to get people out of their normal environment and isolated from distractions and modern conveniences. Work on the camp has also been slowed because of the unceasing rains, but much progress has been made. Even so, I recently was able to take one young man out to the camp for two days of counseling and the results were wonderful. I have received several phone calls from his parents telling me of the positive changes they have seen in their son. PTL! We just got the septic system in last week, and are praying to have the funds to begin building the shower/bathrooms and the water pump house as soon as possible.

One event I want to tell you about before I bring this letter to a close, is the week I spent as a counselor at the Cross View Christian Camp outside of Dickens, Texas. Ephraim and I were invited by Pastor Greg McCowen of Covenant Life Church in Wolfforth, Texas, to be camp counselors for a week to a group of eight boys who were 9 and 10 years old. I must say that it was one of the most exhausting yet spiritually exhilarating events I have participated in, in recent months. It was so great to spend 24 hours a day with these kids, some of whom had serious emotional issues. As I helped them through their problems and fears with the words of Christ, I began to see them slowly change and overcome. The pinnacle moment came when one of them accepted Christ as his Savior and four others asked me to baptize them. Which I did with great honor. God is so Good! My experience at Crossview Christian Camp solidified in my mind that this type of program, of 24 hour a day contact away from their normal environment, is the most effective way to reach young adults, or anybody else for that matter.

Well, I know I have just touched on several things without going into a lot of detail, but I am quickly running out of space on this page. Words cannot describe our appreciation to you and your faithful financial and prayer support for this ministry. Without you, we could not have reached so many lost and troubled souls. God Bless you all in Jesus mighty name. Vaughn

On the battlefield for Jesus,

ALL THE GOFF'S

Larry and Betty

Vaughn, Irene, Esther, Ephraim, and Benjamin

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Our team at Crossview Christian Camp.



One of the four that I was honored to baptize.



Flooded Amazon Mission Base



Home bound for 3 weeks because of the flood



20X40 Roof (1st structure of the Goff Ministries Camp)



Preparing the to pour the Concrete slab.



Main Abilene Camp structure Completed



Cinder block movie screen for showing Gospel films