



December 13, 2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. We appreciate you!

We are now well into rainy season and the cooler temperatures are a welcome relief after a particularly hot end to dry season. With rainy season comes cold and flu season. There is a particularly virulent virus in town right now that is passing rapidly through the teen group. Three of us are in different stages of it right now. There has been a slow increase in Covid cases again in Manaus with some restrictions being put back into place.

Lloyd and a pastor from Betânia were excited a few weeks ago for the first flight since the pandemic to drop an indigenous pastor off in a more remote indigenous community for a weekend of ministry. Praise the Lord for a return to this ministry! The following day, Lloyd and Lucas went upriver by speedboat to spend the weekend in Amaturá. There were a couple of teen/college guys who were planning to go, but they all backed out at the last minute. Upon returning home from Amaturá on Monday morning, Lloyd went from the port to the airport so he could fly out and pick up the pastor he had dropped off on Friday.

The following week, Lloyd was able to drop off a different pastor in a different community on Friday. On Saturday, Lloyd and Jacob flew down to Castelo for an overnight visit to the church plant. Lloyd dropped Jacob off in the community and then he flew on to Fonte Boa to pick up a pastor who was also joining them for the weekend. Jacob is a lot like his dad in that he rarely meets a stranger. He made himself right at home in Castelo after Lloyd dropped him off and he was quite excited to search out new and interesting plants, fruit, and insects. The people he talked with were happy to talk with him and show him all kinds of exciting things. Lloyd and Jacob made it home late in the afternoon on Sunday. Monday morning dawned overcast and breezy which delayed Lloyd's return to pick up the pastor he had left in the community. By afternoon, there was a break in the weather and Lloyd was able to pick him up.

Lloyd wanted to get to know some of the new 13-year-old guys who have recently moved up into the youth group so he has begun meeting with them to work on a project. A couple of them come from very rough home situations. Lloyd wanted to include Lucas, who loves aviation, as well as two of his good friends, one of whom wants to be an aeronautical engineer. They are building a model airplane kit. This past week, they did a lot of sanding and gluing. It is a blessing to see some of the older teens taking these younger ones "under their wings" so to speak. It can be hard moving up into the youth group and being the "new kid".

Athena is having a Christmas party for her English students on Saturday. They will be decorating sugar cookies, making Christmas cards, learning a carol, and having a snack. These past weeks, they have been working on translating Luke 2: 8-20. Pray for a few of these

students who are not believers, that they will give serious thought about the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

A leadership meeting was scheduled at church this past Thursday which is when we meet with the college/singles group and Lloyd needed to attend the meeting. Rather than cancel the study, Athena sent a message out to the group asking if any would have interest in coming for a time of singing and praying followed by work on a project. Athena did not hold out much hope as only one responded; however, what a pleasant surprise as ten showed up! They trickled in late due to other activities that were going on, but it was a great time of praying for each other (several are facing difficult situations) followed by a wonderful time of fellowship while putting together 180 ornaments with a verse to hand out at the prenatal clinic. This group asked about going Christmas caroling and making plates of cookies and cinnamon rolls to drop off at the houses we visit. Pray that they will be a blessing to those they visit on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and that the rain would hold off during that time.

Tomorrow, one of the boys' college friends will be temporarily moving in with us until early March when his next semester starts. We have known Gerson for over 10 years. His parents split up many years ago, and while his dad still lives in town, he has a new "family" and is essentially non-involved in his son's life. His mom moved back to Peru a number of years ago leaving Gerson and two of his brothers behind. It has been tough for them. Gerson and his older brother are active in church and growing spiritually.

Thank you to those who contributed to Igor's prosthesis and those who have been praying for him. As is common here, things in the medical realm tend to move slowly. Igor and his mom have traveled to Manaus twice awaiting the surgery date, only to be told that they need to wait a bit longer. They are enroute back to Santo Antônio right now as the surgeon related to them that the surgery date will be sometime in January. Please continue to pray for Igor as this will be a big surgery and for God's perfect timing in the surgery date.

We would covet your prayers for as things are still not resolved with Lloyd's land-based pilot's rating. Lloyd's amphibian license allows him to legally fly the Petrel, but he is unable to fly the Excel that is being hangared here awaiting transfer to a coworker when he is ready. Ideally, that plane needs to be flown once a month to blow the "cobwebs out of the engine" as the expression goes.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us also continue to look forward to "...the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ..." (Titus 2:13).

In Christ,  
Lloyd and Athena and family



1. ornament the college-aged group made with Isaiah 9:6
2. Jacob, Lloyd, and Kaká in Castelo (church plant)
3. sanding and gluing model airplane
4. Lucas and Lloyd headed to Amaturá
5. dodging rain showers on the way home from Fonte Boa