

February 2018

Dear Praying Friends, Supporters and Family:

A few months ago, plans were being made to take a medical team to a Waorani settlement we had opened up to the Gospel five years ago, using a church building as our clinic. Our plan was to travel up river to four other communities we had visited and to use our large canoe to transport those who wanted and needed medical attention down to the clinic. Pedro Jr., my Ecuadorian co-worker, said for us to be prepared for up to 300 Indians descending on our clinic.

I asked him what the needs for this trip were and he said 125 gallons of gasoline for the outboard motors and money to buy food. In the Waorani culture when meals are cooked everyone joins in to eat as one big family. Through the generous gifts of a church, this expense was covered. Up until the day before we met, we didn't have a doctor. Sandro, another Ecuadorian co-worker, brought a dentist with him and all the dental equipment but we had no doctor. So we prayed.



The day before I left the states for Ecuador I made one last call to Pedro about something and he said his sister knew of a doctor who wanted to join us. We were thrilled. I have added reading glasses to my medical caravan ministry and was wondering how I was going to pull teeth and also fit the elderly with reading glasses. Pedro told me that his brother is an ophthalmologist and wanted to join us. So during my trip down I was just praising the Lord for how He was putting this trip together.

However.....God's ways are neither our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts. When I arrived, I was in for a real disappointment. The doctor had decided not to come and the ophthalmologist didn't show up. To top it off, the serious dry spell in this area had dried the rivers so we couldn't have traveled upriver anyway to transport our patients. It was a real let down but we knew God was in control and we were going to do what we could to help those who did come.

We were able to fill and pull teeth, give glasses to those who needed them, and give out the vitamins I had brought for both adults and children. During our four days there we helped 72 people, which on a normal caravan we see that many in one morning. 25 teeth were pulled and 40 pairs of glasses were given out. The reaction of those getting glasses was so encouraging. "Praise Jesus I can read my Bible again." Each night we held evangelistic meetings with films and the spoken Word. 20 responded to the Gospel. PTL!!!

The encouraging part of this trip, for me, was spending time with Jose and Galla, Waorani leaders of this community who had accepted Christ. I was so blessed by their testimonies and their sincere desire to reach their own people by river regardless of the fact that it takes days of travel. Pray that God will send rain to raise the river levels so they can travel.

Plans are being made on the 26th of this month, to travel up river to locate



new communities and Jose is praying about making a trip in November, deep into the Amazon to make contact with an unreached group of Waoranis. If he went by canoe it would take him six days but if he could get a flight by plane, it would be a three hour drive to an airport and then an hour flight into the jungle. He's asking me to pray about making this trip with him.

It would be an exciting trip, and I thanked him for the invitation but told him that as soon as I got out of the plane I'd probably be hit by a blow gun dart. My white skin would stand out like a sore thumb. He replied, "Nah, I would just tell them that you are a good guy".

I returned home tired but so encouraged just listening to their passion in reaching their lost tribes for Christ. To see this area of Ecuador hidden deep in the jungle and never reached by the Gospel, beginning to open up on the Nushino river, is thrilling. I am so privileged to be a small part of what God is doing. You make this possible for me by your prayers and gifts. Thank you. I have a great national team working down there and they need our prayers. I am so blessed.

Serving our King together,
Al and Connie

