

DECEMBER

J F BRANDON BAPTIST MISSIONARY

1942

Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil, South AmericaWheaton, Illinois December 1942A MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Japyni, Acre, Sept 9 1942

I left Cruzeiro do Sul on the 24th of August. I had planned to come later in the week but the church sent for me and I came without further delay. It was like this, one of the believers, a widow, had an awful sour on her breast, poor and unable to treat it, became dismayed and went to consult one who had a familiar spirit and consulted with the dead, (Deut 18:9-14 compare with many other references) a custom quite unknown to believers. She carried with her a daughter about 16 years old. The woman said while there she felt a rebuke and could not enter into a treatment with the witch, but in the conversation the child was deeply impressed with some things the witch had said and later there appeared an unclean spirit on the child that she could not resist, that was mistreating her very much. They sent for me to come. The brother of the child came for me and when he told me what the trouble was, we went to the Lord with the matter and besought Him to cast the unclean spirit out of the child. It was about 8 oclock in the A M when we prayed, and when we arrived we learned that it was about the same hour on the same day that the spirit left her and she became her natural self again. The Lord, no doubt heard our prayer and cast the spirit out of her but she is somewhat weakened. Ever since she has been resting and seems to be improving.

MADE JOURNEY IN A CANOE

I came in canoe, the river is very low and the sun was so hot, it was a three day journey. I was cooked, the skin all came off my face and hands but I had a jar of mentholatum which I found to be very refreshing, now it has about healed up. I stood in the front of the canoe and the boy in the rear, each of us with long poles which we used to push the canoe. We found it better than using paddles. We stopped in one place to spend the night with some believers and after supper we had a preaching service. It was so wonderful, only a few there, about 20, but the Lord saved a young man who gave such a refreshing profession. I don't believe I ever saw a happier people. The Lord truly endeared Himself to all of us. When we arrived here it was afternoon Saturday and we had services in the home where the sick child was. After prayer for her and thanks to God for blessing her, she seemed happy but humiliated. The next morning in our services the hand of the Lord was again felt as He extended it to rescue another of the perishing sheep that had wandered far away. Such occasions carry one into places unknown to the natural man, the joy of the celestial is so much greater than the natural, as the capacity and resources of the soul are greater than that of the body, so we usually content ourselves by saying "it was good to be there." We had services all week but few in attendance. The people are so priest ridden that they fear to come out to hear the gospel yet they are anxious to hear. I have been busy visiting in the homes of many and always find them ready to hear.

A MARVELOUS CONVERSION

This last Sunday afternoon one of the believers invited me to preach in his home, but his house was so hot and sunny that we went to the neighbor's. They all sat on the porch and I stood in the yard. A man was there who had been raised up from his death bed to health because we

had gone to him with the word of the Lord and prayer and the Lord heard and healed him but when he was well he told me he didn't want we around any longer so we left him alone. This was four years ago, in the meantime his wife and one of his boys had been saved and professed faith but he would not permit them to be baptized. He had still another boy who wanted to profess faith but he threatened him and he never did. Well he was there and his family, he refused to sit but stood near all the while I preached and as soon as I gave an invitation he came as one who is destitute of everything and cast himself upon the Lord. Truly there is mercy for one who will thus proceed. There were more than 50 present, the most of them being believers, the cups of all were running over. The Lord was glorified among his people. As his wife wept with joy she cried out "Now I can be baptized." An in the night service his oldest boy came and happily gave a profession of his faith in the Lord Jesus which had been suppressed for more than two years, he was happy as were all of us. We have had bible study each day with prayer to follow and some of the brethren are revived.

A JOURNEY IS PLANNED

Our plan is this: I am to go on a journey tomorrow that will require 15 days or more. There are 21 believers there and I expect to be with them a number of days, then the brethren from here will join me there and we will continue the journey for another 15 or 20 days. We are to go in canoe. One of the brethren here is a peddler and I will go with him. He has been testifying there and says there is great interest. He says there are believer already. Of a truth it is one of the ends of the earth. It is well in the foothills of the Andes. Here we stand in great need of a school for the children of the believers. There are more than 40 in the school age and less than one fifth of them can read and write. We are in need of a church building here too as the one we now have is old and need of repair. We are thinking of building a church house and repairing the old church building for a school. The Lord willing we will thus do. To ask if I received some injections for "Yellow fever". No I did not receive anything in Miami. I feel deeply grateful to the doctor there in Wheaton for the interest he had in this matter. May the Lord Jesus in tender mercy remember him and his children with the better blessings of life.

TO THE REGIONS BEYOND

This is the 16th of September and I began this letter on the 9th. But many things have happened since that date. On the 10th I embarked in a canoe with one of the brethren who is a peddler to make a journey with him up river. Well we left the port of Japyni about mid-day and had a very pleasant afternoon. We stopped in the home of one who is an enemy of the gospel and I had an hour or more to converse with him in the word of the Lord. He hardened his heart and we went our way. When night overtook us we were in a very difficult place. The river had cut through the bank and shortened its course and the result was that the current was so swift that it was impossible to go forward by night, so we pitched camp on the bank until morning. We had coffee and tapioca for supper and then by the light of a crude oil lamp tied up our hammocks to the trees to sleep. All was well until about ten thirty. We were all asleep but there arose a dreadful storm. When we were awakened it was beginning to rain, we hurried and broke up camp, packed our baggage in our rubber bags and adjourned to the canoe that had a small shelter for his merchandise. There was room for us to sit but no more and there we sat until six A M. He had two young men employed and we four

sat together until morning. I was happy for the provision that the Lord had made. I have been on similar journeys when there was no shelter at all and we had to take an ice cold rain all night. The next morning we were about three hours going about three hundred yards. We could only make it by tying ropes to the canoe and then one go in advance and tie it to a fallen tree in the river and then all pulling with all our might on the rope. Our canoe was well loaded and was heavy and we only made the grade by the help of the Lord, but He is always with us when we need him most. I was glad when we arrived at the other end, thanked God and took courage. When we arrived at a suitable place to lodge it was already dark and everyone ready to go to sleep, but this time we had a shelter of a small palm leaf house, the owner of which is a friend to the gospel and received us with great satisfaction. We gave his wife fish and rice and farinha to prepare us a supper and believe me she did it well. She came and called us at ten thirty and we all were ready. We sat on the floor of the cabin and ate from enameled plates, we were served from the kettles in which the food was cooked. Everything tasted so good and as soon as we were finished everyone sought his hammock and believe me it felt mighty good to stretch out again.

A BAPTIZING

The next morning we were up early and on our way and had a very pleasant days journey. We slept in the home of a believer whose wife is an unbeliever, he was not at home, we worked hard to get that far so we could arrive early on Sunday morning. So we got up early to arrive in time for Sunday School in the community of believers. We were delayed but arrived there just as they were finishing, but they wanted me to preach to them and I wanted to too, and the services were prolonged. God was with us and we were all happy. There were a number of unbelievers who seemed interested. In the afternoon we had a baptizing as there was one whom the Lord had saved waiting to be immersed. Then in the evening service we observed the Lord's Supper. It was so good to be with the ones who came to know the Lord Jesus through our own feeble efforts, and to enjoy communion with them at the table of the Lord. In the unselfish hearts of these simple believers in the Lord Jesus, divine love has taken root downward and is developing christian character that will one day speak in mighty testimony of the power of the sacrificial blood of Calvary that cleansed them from their sins and made them worthy to stand before the throne of His glory to the exceeding joy of the Lord Jesus their Saviour.

ENTERTAINED IN AN INDIAN HOME

I am being entertained in the home of an Indian. Their cabin is very clean and nice and they do everything they can think of to make me happy, they have no children and it is so quiet and nice. There are a number of Indians who live in and about the neighborhood and all of them have visited me. One can never tell what they are thinking about and as I talk to them about the Lord they will interrupt with some of the most untimely questions about things of absolutely no importance. The man and his wife are very devout but the others seem very dense. The people who live here are all rubber cutters and are working hard for the summer is about to end and in the rainy season they can not cut. The forest is beautiful, there are no words to describe the glories of the Lord that are encountered there unobserved by so many, yet these serve so well to deepen the love of one who has been redeemed by divine grace. The forest is one of my Father's storehouses for the glories of

my Lord. Last week I received two letters from you, 2 and 3 by number and a letter from my sister, nothing more. I have not heard from my wife and children since arriving in Cruzeiro do Sul. The letter from my sister was written in June and she was not at home at that time. I hope John is in Wheaton ere this and doing well in his school work. I am so glad that you spoke of him as you did. I love the lad with all my heart and have never become weary in praying for him. I do so want him to make good in his school work with an ever increasing love for the Lord Jesus. I will try to write the letters that you recommend but I don't know when. My strength is consumed in the work and the greatest sacrifice that I make is writing letters home. I have written you many more letters that you say you have received. Have sent them together with letters to others in the letters to my wife for to send on.

BACK IN JAPYNI

This is the first of October and I am now in Japyni. They came for me and we arrived late on the 28th. It seemed as if it was the will of the Lord for me to return. I don't know what the Lord has in store for us. I want to make ready for a journey now as soon as possible for the Blue river which is the principal tributary of the Moa river, many days up. Conditions are bad in this country, worse in fact than I have ever seen them. There is nothing in this country except what is brought from the south and now that so many steamers have been destroyed ours is very limited. For every article there is for sale there is at least five customers and the need is becoming very great and the cost of living very dear. I mention this so that you all may carry our need to the Lord in prayer. Of course the way will be provided but we want to look to Him to do it. We had a fine prayer meeting service last night and it was resolved to have a baptizing next Sunday and the Lord's Supper to follow if the Lord wills. I have not heard from my family since June and have written many times to them and to you. I am enclosing a letter to John and one to my baby girls and will ask you to send them along. In fact the only letters I have received since leaving Benton are yours and one from my wife. In the future please send your letters to Cruzeiro do Sul, Caixa Postal 10. I hope you are all well and enjoying the multiplied blessings of the Lord Jesus. May His grace mercy and peace ever encircle you, together with all those who love His appearing. Remember me to all the brethren and interested ones and especially when you pray. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Sincerely, J F Brandon

AN OUTBOARD MOTOR NEEDED

The above letter was written from Japyni, Acre, which is about 30 miles from Cruzeiro do Sul. Brother Brandon organized the church at Japyni in 1931. He made the 50 mile journey from Cruzeiro do Sul to Japyni up the Moa river, in three days in a canoe. He stood in the canoe and with the help of a native boy pushed it upstream 30 miles in three days and this under the sun near the equator. This brings to our mind again the need of an outboard motor to attach to the canoe which would enable the missionary to conserve his strength for the preaching of the gospel. We made mention of this need in the August Mission Sheets. November 28th was our 20th wedding anniversary and those who work with me gave us a sealed envelope. This envelope contained \$7.50 for us to buy our anniversary present. I ask my amazing Grace what she wanted to buy and she replied: "Brother Brandon needs an outboard motor lots worse than we need an anniversary present."

So a fund for an outboard motor was started and is now up to \$10.00. As soon as this fund is large enough to buy a motor and pay the shipping charges we will try to get one on the way to J F Brandon in far off Cruzeiro do Sul. All offerings for this should be over and above our regular mission offerings. If you would like to have a part in this just send us your offering, large or small.

NEW TESTAMENT MISSION WORK

The letter from the Missionary is a good example of New Testament Mission Work. It tells us what our mission offerings are accomplishing. Baptists are a peculiar people. Titus 2:14 says that the Lord made them that way. They want to know where their mission money is going and what the Missionary they support is preaching. They want the kind of missions commanded in the Great Commission and are not satisfied with anything less (Matt 28:19-20). They want him to preach the gospel that Paul declared he preached (I Cor 15:1-4). They don't want him preaching "Another gospel: Which is not another" (Gal 1:6-7). An that excludes the "social gospel". They believe that men everywhere without Christ are lost. That is why they send Missionaries to them with the remedy for sin. J F Brandon meets these requirement as a Missionary. For 19 years he has been preaching the gospel in Brazil. This letter from him is evidence of the fact that he is still preaching it with power. It tells of happy conversions and of baptism following conversion and of the Lord's Supper following baptism. It tells of the saints being revived and of long hard journeys being made that the gospel might be preached to the lost. It tells of still other journeys being planned. It reminds us of Paul's missionary journeys. Always pressing on "toward the mark for the prize for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

A PERSONAL LETTER TO YOU

If J F Brandon should try to write 700 letters a month it mean about 23 letters a day and the postage for air mail would be about \$280.00 a month. This would not leave any time for preaching the gospel, which would mean that there would not be anything to write about. So he writes one letter and it is sent to you each month in these Mission Sheets. It is a personal letter to you. You should answer it. In addition to this being New Testament Mission Work it has the advantage in as much as all who love and help support it are kept informed each month as to what their offerings are accomplishing. This month of December is a good time for each of us to write him a letter. Tell him of your appreciation of what he is doing and that you are happy to have a part in the work with him and of your prayers for him. Write a letter as a Christmas Gift to him. It will gladden his heart to receive it. Send your letter to us at Wheaton Illinois and we will send all of them in the same envelope by air mail. All pastors please write.

MAILING ADDRESSES

The first few letters that we wrote Brother Brandon we sent to the address in Manaus to be forwarded. We also sent copies of the same letters to Cruzeiro do Sul. Letter #3 that he has received was the one sent to Cruzeiro do Sul the copy sent to Manaus has been returned. perhaps this explains why he has not received mail from all who have written to him. His address is now Caixa Postal 10, Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil, South America. Remember to send all offerings to Elder Z E Clark 5216 Concord Ave Detroit Michigan.

DECEMBER

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1942

1942

Report of offerings received from November 3 1942 to December 3 1942
for the support of Missionary J F Brandon and family:

| | | |
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| Fenton Road Baptist Church----- | Flint Mich----- | \$12.23 |
| North Fork Baptist Church----- | Puryear Tenn----- | 5.00 |
| South Union Baptist Church----- | Cadiz Ky----- | 7.00 |
| Grace Baptist Church----- | Detroit Mich----- | 16.00 |
| Harmony Baptist Church----- | " "----- | 50.00 |
| First Baptist Church----- | Wheaton Ill----- | 51.75 |
| Bethel Baptist Church----- | Roseville Mich----- | 20.11 |
| Benton Baptist Church----- | Benton Ky----- | 108.63 |
| Pleasant View Baptist Church----- | Kirkmansville Ky-- | 10.00 |
| Wasco Baptist Church (Mission Group)----- | Wasco Ill----- | 5.00 |
| Mrs Carolin Sheppard----- | Detroit Mich----- | 8.57 |
| Mrs E H Purdom----- | Elmhurst Ill----- | 4.00 |
| Donald Grollimund----- | Wheaton Ill----- | 2.00 |
| Carl Vining----- | " "----- | 2.00 |
| Donald Overbey----- | " "----- | 1.00 |
| John Babian----- | " "----- | 1.00 |
| Naomi Franz----- | " "----- | 2.00 |
| Frances Meyer----- | " "----- | 2.00 |
| Fay Wing Jr----- | " "----- | 1.00 |
| Ralph Claybaugh----- | " "----- | 5.00 |
| Dorothy Arison----- | " "----- | 5.00 |
| Dale Overbey----- | " "----- | 1.00 |
| Betty Day----- | " "----- | 1.00 |
| John Brandon----- | " "----- | 4.75 |
| Paul Holsinger Jr----- | " "----- | 5.00 |
| A Friend----- | Detroit Mich----- | 1.00 |

(Signed) Z E Clark

Total \$332.04

PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

The Pleasant View Baptist Church, Kirkmansville Ky has sent an offering by the hand of their treasurer, Brother Vernon Powell as shown in the above report. We join with all who love, support and pray for this great Mission Work in grateful appreciation to the Pastor and people of the Pleasant View Baptist Church. Beloved we welcome you to the list of Baptist Churches that help in the support of J F Brandon and family and the Mission Work that he is doing in Brazil. There is no overhead or any other expense taken out of the mission offerings. Pastor Z E Clark of the Harmony Baptist Church, Detroit Michigan receives all offerings and forwards the funds for the support of the work. He does this as a work of love. His Church averages more than a dollar a month per member in the support of Missions that the lost in Brazil may have the gospel preached to them. These Mission Sheets go out each month in the interest of the work. They go to all who give and to many who do not give. At the present time we send out about 700 a month. The cost for this does not come out of mission offerings. It is over and above the offerings for missions and the Lord has been gracious and provided. When we have needed stencils, paper, ink, envelopes, staples and stamps and did not have enough with which to get them, others have sent us funds to help at just the right time. Brother E B Nall of Paducah Ky sent \$1.00 in November to help in this part of the work. Thank you beloved. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt 6:33.