

FEBRUARY

J F BRANDON BAPTIST MISSIONARY
Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil, South America
Wheaton Illinois February 1943

1943

Cruzeiro do Sul, Nov 20 1942

I would have written sooner but have been hindered, in fact I have never seen so many things to come up to hinder the work of the Lord. The devil has more power in the earth than he had a few years ago and is using it you may be sure. I have had the fever for about a week and am now full of quinine. Yesterday I was sick but today I feel better thanks to the Lord Jesus from whom all blessings flow. When I returned from Japyni I was not able to give the kind of report I wanted to of the work there. I was not able yet I did not want to say so.

TO ORGANIZE CHURCH AT MORAPIRANGO

Since returning I was called to Morapirango where we have about fifty brethren who want to be organized into a church. At present they are members of the church here but feel that it will be better for them to be separated as the distance is about fifteen miles. Some of these are newly converted and need to be taught the way of the Lord more perfectly. Others have recently been converted and are awaiting baptism. It is the desire of the brethren to take their letters from this church and organize another church of like faith and order out there, then they can receive these new members for baptism and celebrate the supper of the Lord upon their own authority. I think it just that they receive this consideration, so we are awaiting for the fullness of time to appear. Have you not seen young men ambitious to get away from their father's home and have one of their own to build up and to order? Well churches are made up of men and women who are ambitious for the progress of the TRUTH, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They feel that they can exercise themselves to a better advantage being separated.

SINS CONFESSED BRINGS RELIEF

I was called out there however because of some misunderstandings among some of the older brethren, after which one of them was stricken with some dreadful sores and found no relief until he confessed his sins and they became reconciled. The Lord's dealings with some are severe but He knows better how to care for his own, and the Judge of the earth will do right. I preached every night while there but some of the neighbors hardened their hearts and refused to come and had much to say in ridicule of the gospel. I left last Monday morning and Monday afternoon one of the women who was so bitter was stricken with some kind of affliction and had a hemorrhage. They became alarmed and sent word to the believers to pray for them that she might not die in her sins, but it seems they had waited too long, she soon became unconscious and by the time the pastor could arrive she was dying. Sad indeed for one to die in their sins, for the truth of the matter is, they do not go to the place where the Lord Jesus is, John 8:21. The woman left a husband and five or six children. On Tuesday night they held services in the home that was well attended by all of the community. The Lord will be glorified in all occasions. All things may not work for the best but some good will come from all things to those who are the called of God from before the foundation of the world, Rom 8:28.

A TRIPLE WEDDING

The young people of the church, or of that community seem to have agreed upon one thing anyway. There will be a triple wedding there on Dec 12. All are believers. I was invited to attend and conduct the religious

services. If possible I will go. The war news has been most encouraging the past few days and we here in our church services always give thanks to the Lord. We have prayed much about the rubber situation and one of the things that ungodly men can't understand is that the rains have been withheld and the rubber cutters are still able to work. If things had run regular as usual there would have been but little if any rubber delivered here, but dry weather which of course is ordered of God, has enabled the leading merchants of this place to receive hundreds of tons of rubber out of season. One thing I see in the matter out of joint is that they are overpaid. The rubber cutter actually receives 25¢ a pound for his raw rubber which is just five times too much. Too much money is often worse than not enough, especially with people who never had any and don't know what to do with it when it does come their way. Hundreds of people who live in this interior are too weak to resist temptation and prove to be easy victims for promoters of the underworld movement.

PEDDLERS OF SIN AT WORK

There are scores of people who live here now who make it their business to travel by canoe far into the interior with a supply of all kinds of alcoholic drinks, perfume, face powder, daggers, pistol balls etc. These manage to attend all of the dances that are held every other Saturday and Sunday in all the rubber plantations unless providentially hindered, and since the beginning of the war crime has increased here until our jail will hardly hold the inmates for quantity. A few months ago when rubber was five cents a pound there was not enough money in the country to justify these peddlers to operate, but now the people pay 50¢ for a bottle of beer or five dollars for a small bottle of perfume etc. The multitude is money mad, but money does not satisfy. I am a stranger in their midst with nothing am happy while they are exercising them in every extreme for money and are without peace, light or happiness. The boat that has been so long expected just whistled and I am hoping to receive letters from you all.

LOUD SPEAKER AND OUTBOARD MOTOR NEEDED

There is one thing that I need and need badly, more than anything else, in fact the work is suffering because I am deprived of it, and that is a loud speaker. But I want a good one. It is better for me to make a sacrifice, whatever it may be and have one. I am at one of the earth's ends and to send one of inferior quality would be a disappointment for if it should be broken or out of order in any way, there is no one here who could repair it. The only way I know to do it is to keep back the money you would send to me or at least the greater part of it until there is enough to buy a good one and pay the freight on it, and let me have it as soon as possible. It may be better to write the shipping companies at once so that the passage may be secured without too much delay. Booth Shipping Corp Ltd and Lambert and Holt, both are at Battery Place N Y City. If you can send a Johnston outboard motor of five and one half horsepower I can use it to good advantage, in fact it is imperative. One can't make this interior in canoe, the streams are so swift and the tropical sun is too hot. Such journeys renders one unfit for work when they arrive at the desired point. I request a Johnston motor because the parts for it can be bought here, others can not. I don't want to take from my family there to supply these things but only from the part that would fall to me after the family is supplied. You speak of a Kodak, one would be of great value to the work but supplies

can not be bought here, then those who develop them are not capable and to send them to Manaos would take too long, for if the films are not attended to within a few days they are ruined. I do not understand how to develop so pass the Kodak until someone comes out to help me in the work. Now as to the Radio I want one more than anything but it seems out of the question to me. To buy one there and send it would cost a lot. Those who have them here paid two hundred dollars for one. I suppose that would be about one hundred dollars there. I need the loud speaker and outboard motor very much more and trust it may please the Lord to send them without too much delay.

RECEIVES THE MISSION SHEETS

I have no suggestion to make as to the monthly letters, so far as I know they are well planned and formed, it is a marvel to me how you do it together with all the other work that you have. I had occasion to be up the Moa river about fifteen miles a few days ago and was surprised at the great number of orchids in bloom. November is the month for them to bloom. There are literally hundreds, but each one in the tallest and thickest trees, quite out of reach. The brethren who were with me ask if they grew in North America and I told them that some people there cultivated them to sell. They laughed and asked "who would buy them"? After that I didn't have the courage to tell them what the price would be, they would not have believed it.

SERVICES WELL ATTENDED

This is Monday morning and I must hurry to get this off in the mail. The boat is marked to leave this P.M. Yesterday we had a good day. All services were well attended. The morning service was a house well filled. In the afternoon we went two miles out of town to preach and returned just in time for the evening service. There were some here at night who had never before heard the message of salvation, one man seemed to be deeply impressed. Everything seems to be in peace this morning but one can never judge by what seems to be. Brother, pray for us. Give our christian love and best wishes to all of the brethren and friends and especially to your own family and to John. May the amazing grace of the Lord Jesus Christ our eternal Saviour encircle you as your protection, consolation and joy and may all that is worthwhile in life be given you without measure, according to the generous grace of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

Sincerely

J F Brandon

QUESTIONS THAT COME TO MIND

Brother Z E Clark says: "A comparison of J F Brandon's mission work with that of Paul's shows that it is the same kind done by the great apostle in New Testament times." Journeys made, the gospel preached, sinners converted, believers baptized, churches organized and indoctrinated. Yes persecution, hunger, sickness and trials on every hand. The question comes to mind: "What are we doing for missions?" Yes we have given, but we haven't given all. What have we suffered for the Lord Jesus? No we haven't gone for months without bread. We haven't gone hungry. We haven't slept in a hammock tied in an unfinished church building or between two trees. We haven't been stoned or come upon with clubs and knives. We haven't pushed a canoe up stream with a long pole for many miles under a hot sun to preach the gospel to the lost. We have to answer the question: Lord, we haven't done much. Yet Jesus paid it all.

Brother W C Nevil a missionary doing work at Gainsboro Tenn sends an offering advising that credit be given to the Gainsboro Missionary Baptist Church. In commenting on Brother Brandon's letter, he wrote to Brother Z E Clark in part: "Let us meet the challenge offered in his letter with more prayer and offerings, for the Lord will not fail, and his word is not bound." Brother Nevil also sent a letter addressed to Brother Brandon which is on its way by airmail to him. Brother Brandon will be glad to get this. Let others also write to him.

MISSION MAIL

Recently we received a letter from Mrs E A Nelson. This letter contains information that we would not otherwise get and it is from one who knows Brother and Sister Brandon and their work from first hand. The letter speaks for itself and with her permission we give it to you in full on page six. May it increase our interest in missions. Last month the Mission Sheets went into 739 homes. This issue goes to more than 1000 homes. These Mission Sheets are sent out free to all. The cost in getting these out is over and above the regular mission offerings. To help in this expense we have received the following designated offerings: Elder Z E Clark \$8.00, Mr and Mrs Terry Lawrence \$1.00, Robert Lawrence \$1.00, Mr and Mrs Chas H Wilson \$1.00, Miss Georgia Brandon \$3.00 and Miss Dorothy Arison \$3.00. For these we are thankful.

BUFFALO AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Buffalo Avenue Baptist Church of Tampa Fla sends an offering advising: "Our church has voted to give to the work of Brother Joe Brandon, in the Amazon Valley, Brazil the amount of \$10.00 each month until further ordered." Brother Roy Mason has been the pastor of this church for over 11 years. During this pastorate they have built four times. The main auditorium now seats about 1100 people and is all paid for. The average attendance to prayer meeting in 1941 was 240. They average about \$400.00 a month for mission purposes. They support nearly a score of native foreign missionaries on many foreign fields. This church buys radio time to broadcast the gospel in Tampa for forty five minutes each Sunday morning and in addition to this pays for the time on five other radio stations that carry "Radio Revival Network" programs. Brother Mason is owner and editor of FAITH and LIFE an independent Baptist paper with a national circulation. In the January 1943 issue of this paper is an article about the church voting to have a regular part in the support of Brother Brandon's work. You can get this paper for \$1.00 a year. Pastor Mason's book THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT is the best we know of on this subject. Send your subscription for FAITH and LIFE to him at 720 W Kentucky Ave, Tampa Fla.

MISSION BANKS

We made mention in the July issue of the Mission Sheets of the mission banks designed by Brother J F Brandon. Brother and Sister Dennis Brantly of Detroit Mich took one of these banks home and recently returned it to their church with \$18.22 in it. One hundred of these banks in one hundred homes with the same amount in each one would mean \$1822.00 for missions. This would put a lot of native missionaries to work preaching the gospel to the lost. You can get one of these banks free from Elder Z E Clark, 5216 Concord Ave, Detroit Mich or from us at Wheaton Ill. May the Lord lead 100 people to send for one of these banks and then lay it on their hearts to fill them up. Brother and Sister Brantly have shown us the way to do this. Let us follow their good example.

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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1943

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Report of offerings received from January 3rd 1943 to February 3rd 1943
for the support of Missionary J F Brandon and family:

Bellview Baptist Church	-----Paducah Ky-----	\$ 5.00
Buffalo Avenue Baptist Church	-----Tampa Fla-----	10.00
White Plains Baptist Church	-----White Plains Ky-----	5.00
Gainsboro Baptist Church	-----Gainsboro Tenn-----	6.00
Grace Baptist Church (BYPU)	-----Detroit Mich-----	5.00
Grace Baptist Church	-----Detroit Michigan-----	33.00
Hopewell Baptist Church	-----Golden Pond Ky-----	8.00
Liberty Baptist Church	-----Toledo Ohio-----	4.00
Mt Zion Baptist Church	-----Paducah Ky-----	15.00
Benton Baptist Church	-----Benton Ky-----	60.75
Harmony Baptist Church	-----Detroit Mich-----	82.81 *
(*Designated for Outboard Motor and Loud Speaker)		
First Baptist Church	-----Wheaton Ill-----	143.00 *
* \$100.00 Designated for Outboard Motor and Loud Speaker)		
Elder Y E Holland	-----Braggadocio Mo-----	1.00
Mrs E H Purdom	-----Elmhurst Ill-----	2.00
Mrs Rose Bolle	-----Waynesville Ohio-----	1.00
Alex Sumpter	-----Union Grove Wis-----	1.00
Astrid Strom	-----Wheaton Ill-----	2.00
Carl Vining	-----" "-----	4.00
Naomi Franz	-----" "-----	1.00
John Babian	-----" "-----	1.00
Eorothy Arison	-----" "-----	2.00
Dale Overbey	-----" "-----	1.00
Betty Day	-----" "-----	1.00
Donald Overbey	-----" "-----	1.00
John Brandon	-----" "-----	3.00
Don Grollimund	-----" "-----	1.00
Paul Holsinger Jr	-----" "-----	2.50
Charles Holsinger	-----" "-----	2.50
Mr and Mrs Chas H Wilson	-----Detroit Mich-----	1.00

(Signed) Z E Clark

Total \$405.56

WHITE PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

We are happy to add the White Plains Baptist Church of White Plains Ky to the growing list of churches that help in the support of this mission work. They sent their offering by the hand of their Treasurer Brother P R Whitfield. We do not have the name of the pastor of this church or other information at this time. We are sure of one thing and that is they love New Testament mission work.

OUTBOARD MOTOR AND LOUD SPEAKER

In December Brother W L Hickman of Fresno Cal sent \$10.00 for this fund. This with the offerings designated for the same purpose as shown in the above report from Brother Clark makes a total of \$192.81 in the fund for purchasing and sending the outboard motor and loud speaker to Missionary J F Brandon in Brazil. We call this need to your attention trusting that the Lord will lay it on your heart to send an offering for this purpose also. The Missionary is in great need of these. Send all offerings for the mission work of J F Brandon to:

Elder Z E Clark
5216 Concord Ave
Detroit Michigan

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Mr Hafford H Overbey
Wheaton, Illinois

Tulsa Okla
Jan 22 1943

Dear Brother Overbey:- The January bulletin of J F Brandon's work in Cruzeiro do Sul, with report of contributions to hand. We are always glad to get the news of Brother Brandon's work in that far inland corner of Brazil. We note how long it was before he received the home letters. How he must have longed to hear from his dear family.

In 1928 when he made the first trip up in that section (Acre), his wife and seven children were in Manaos. Their youngest child, a darling baby girl took sick. With all that could be done for her she just wasted away. I and my washer woman, a christian West Indian, went there on a Monday and felt we could not leave Sister Brandon alone with that sick baby. Wednesday evening after prayer meeting a number of the dear believers came over. That evening the baby went to its heavenly home. One of the deacons made the arrangements for a coffin and the funeral the following day.

Imagine that mother, she had not heard from her husband, I think for about three months. Several days after the baby's death Brother Brandon arrived from his long trip. Later the whole family went up there (Cruzeiro do Sul). At first they were well received, but before long the persecution started. The merchants would not sell them neither bread nor flour, other commodities too. They sent word to me, I shipped them boxes of food several times.

After a furlough in the homeland, when they left four of the children in Benton Ky they worked in several places near Manaos. Then the whole family came down with malaria fever which some of them suffer effects to this day. We did what we could to help them, finally had them come to our home. While Mrs Brandon was still too weak to stay up, they started up river, finally going to Cruzeiro do Sul again. This time it seems some of the persecution abated and a good work begun which has been signally blessed.

Only one called of God would leave his family after what they have gone through together, and go to this isolated field so hard to reach, so difficult to have regular communication with the homeland, as well as scarcity of food. Now high prices too. I do believe God is changing things. Big projects are on foot to get out rubber from the Amazon country. Health measures, also small hospitals to be located interior to treat workers and natives living there. This is personal news from Missionary at Manaos. Also articles in daily papers.

Glad the support is coming in for Brother and Sister Brandon. I hope and pray as the children grow old enough to leave and Sister Brandon's health permits, she may have the privilege of joining him. She is so valuable in the work, with women and children, and a real christian home. Pardon my lengthy letter. I just wanted you to know some of the past history of the worthy workers you support. Yours fraternally for Brazil.

(Signed) Mrs E A Nelson

Brother and Sister E A Nelson were the first Baptist Missionaries in the Amazon Valley of Brazil. He labored there for about 48 years (1891 to 1939). She worked by his side for about 44 years (1892 to 1936). He is with the Lord. His body rests at Manaos Brazil awaiting the resurrection morning. She lives at Tulsa Okla. They did one of the greatest missionary works of all time. May His amazing grace encircle her.