

MARCH

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

1943

Cruzeiro do Sul Dec 7 1942

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus our blessed and eternal Saviour through whom we have access to God who in mercy has provided "Grace without limit to those without merit" in His beloved and adorable Son, to whom be honor and glory for ever and ever, amen. Do you remember where we were one year ago today? Where we were and what we did and how we received the news of the new born war? Again let me thank you for the warm hospitality of your home, such a patient, careful wife as you are blessed with and your children, so far as I know are blessed with an untiring zeal for the gospel. I have not failed to make daily prayer for the peace and prosperity of your home since the first time I had the pleasure to visit you there.

HAPPY IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD

Well a year has made a lot of difference with me and the work of the Lord here. No doubt the things are changing there too, I hope for the good of those who love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose and for the glory of His blessed name. Yesterday was Sunday and a busy day with me, but I was so happy in the service of the Lord; in the morning we had our regular Sunday School from eight to ten. The Lord had saved a young lady last Wednesday night at prayer meeting and when she came forward it was one of the brightest professions of faith I had ever heard. Yesterday morning at Sunday School she ask for baptism in the afternoon. I had an engagement already at the leper's home which is a mile east of town and the place where we are baptizing now is almost three miles northwest of town, but it looked easy and really it was for the Lord has a way of helping that we do not quite understand. Isa 40:31 rang in my ears all the afternoon. Opposition is a sure thing but not so sure as the faithfulness of the Lord Jesus to help in time of need.

PREACHING TO THE LEPERS

At one oclock I left the church building in company with one of the brethren who is already for service. We went to the leper's home and called them out at the hottest time of day to sit on the ground in the shade of a manga tree to sing praises to the name of Jesus in whom they have come to know as their Saviour and freely confess Him before men. The most of these are sorely afflicted, pitiful beyond expression but the work of grace has brightened their lives in the most amazing manner. In my ministry to them in the gospel, I have not heard one word of complaint from any of them, but I have heard some wonderful expressions of praise. People who enjoy the best of health do not always enjoy the deeper spiritual blessings of a christian life. The loss of all things that life holds dear, that Christ be gained, means more to the investor than we ahve ever seen written in books. I remarked to my companion as we returned, "truly this is the brightest spot in the world to me" it reminds me so much of the first work I ever did in the name of the Lord Jesus, in a small town in West Kentucky. I tried to pastor a small Negro congregation. Negroes in that place didn't have much of a social standing but they deeply appreciated my efforts among them and that encouraged me and became a stepping stone to mission work down here. After all its the comfortless we seek, the poor, needy, the distressed, for of a truth there is a healing balm that annoints the accepting heart as Christ is magnified in the gospel; rest and peace for the weary from every anxiety of life to the humble believer in the Lord.

You would be surprised at the progress they have made, twelve men who try can learn to sing, after so long a time, they select the songs and the most of them do not read but they memorize a half dozen I would say. There were at least twenty others who remained at a distance, took no part but were very attentive. Who knows but what divine grace has hemmed them in there that they might receive the benefits of the sacrificial blood of the Lord Jesus, shed for the remission of sins.

A BAPTIZING IN THE JURUA RIVER

We arrived at the church building at three o'clock and with a few minutes delay continued our journey to the baptismal place, where we found a large crowd of people waiting. We went at once to the water's edge which at that hour was covered with shade; where the people were very attentive to hear the gospel. The Lord gave strength and utterance and everybody seemed to be happy. The Lord's ways are past finding out. He alone has the access to the hearts of men. I waded out into the water waist deep and stood while they sang "Happy Day". The water was cold and so refreshing, the sun had been hot and the way was sandy but great was the recompense to see the profound joy in the expression of the one who was buried with the Lord Jesus in baptism, and the testimony of the people is worth a lot. As I returned to the church I was called into the home of a very sick man, who in times past attended our services very much, his wife having made at one time a profession of faith. She still believes in prayer because she called me in to talk to him and pray for him. This I did and the Lord blessed the occasion. The man though sick, insisted on kneeling down before the Lord and when I left he ask me to return on Tuesday.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

I arrived at the church building at six thirty, found some young people there who had come to prepare for the Lord's Supper. They brought the bread and wine and made other preparations while I had my supper in the home of the deacon, and when I returned the house was half full of people. By seven thirty we were all there, the house wouldn't hold any more. There were more than a score of unbelievers of which one became very much interested, for today he sought the deacon for further explanations. The hour was solemn, the Word seemed to affect them all, then came the supper of the Lord which is within itself the greatest testimony on earth today for the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. Thus ended a glorious day in the service of the Lord. I thought how you would have enjoyed being here and having a part with me.

PROMISE OF AIR SERVICE TO CRUZEIRO DO SUL

The river is all but dried up, never before has it been so dry at this season and the people are amazed. I hope that the Lord will send something among us to call the people to repentance. There is a greater indifference than I have ever seen here. Too much money is often worse than not enough; high prices do not always bring happiness. We have the promise of the government, that soon we are to have air service here, and I will be so glad if it can be abbreviated. They say the boats cannot get here if we do not have rain soon, anyway the Lord knows best and blessed be His holy name. The gospel means more to me every day I live, the journey of life of a sinner on earth is but a winding trail that leads to no certain goal; ever traveling, never arriving at the place where the soul is content to remain.

Truly the light of nature and culture affords no rest for the weary soul of the oppressed and over-burdened sinner, but in "the gospel" relief and comfort to some certain degree is found, encouraged and upheld by the unfailing promise of the Master of man, who in scripture is termed the "Ancient of days", that through the gospel we enter into the way that leads to the blissful eternity in the mansions prepared by God. There will be rest for the weary, and brother, how my soul desires to enter into the altogether satisfying presence of that blessed One who loved me and gave Himself for me. The way that seemeth right to man is but another way to death, but the Blood stained path of Calvary delights the soul with heavenly comforts of those who journey therein. A lost one soon becomes weary, then discouraged, then wanders far away from God, trying to satisfy the longings of the soul with the beggarly elements of earth, pitiful, helpless and unuseful they soon become. These scattered and wasted outcasts of society have wandered into every pitfall of satan and can only be reclaimed by the work of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. The ones I have seen come under His convicting influence, I have heard confessing Christ as their One and only Saviour, the One who satisfies. May His matchless grace be multiplied unto all who love Him and live in the hope of His coming. I commend you into the hands of the blessed and only One that is able to keep you from falling and preserve you faultless before the throne of His glory with great joy, the only wise and eternal Saviour Jesus, the Christ of God, the Comforter of man. To Him be honor, glory and praise, forever and ever, Amen.

J F Brandon

Cruzeiro do Sul Dec 23 1942

Last Sunday was a high day for us in the service of the Lord. The Tuesday night before, after I had preached in the home of one of the brethren, a man came forward professing faith in the Lord Jesus, and it proved to be such an experience as I had never had before. He was the son of a Baptist preacher from one of the southern States of Brazil, his father having died forty years ago, when he was but four years old. He said he remembered well how his father would go to the homes of others and preach, and the bitter opposition he encountered. He said though a baby, he went with him on many of these journeys. For quite awhile he has been attending our services and would recall from the message from time to time that it was one and the same. Shortly after his father's death his mother came to Para and when but eleven years of age he came in company with some others up to the Jurua.

ANOTHER BAPTIZING

All these years being deprived of the gospel yet the seed cast in the heart in childhood, germinated and has given fruit. As he came from the waters of baptism on Sunday afternoon, he gave expression of the joy that was flooding his heart in a beautiful testimony of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. In the evening service we celebrated the Lord's supper which was indeed a solemn service. The Lord blessed the service in a very remarkable way. Our service in the home of the lepers was a very fine one. As soon as Sunday School was over I went there in company with the Major a brother who most always goes with me when I preach. We arrived there at eleven oclock, just at the hour of dinner but they came up as usual to hear the gospel and to dine later. There were fourteen near by and four others some distance away but very attentive. Others could have been hearing, yet unseen as often is the

case; these may not be believers but in my opinion the most of them are and brother you will never in the deepest sense, realize the joy that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit until you can administer the Word of life to such as these. Outcasts of man's society though they may be, they are precious to the Lord Jesus our Saviour. All ages and classes are represented there and such testimonies as I have not heard from others. Some of them will soon be with the Lord, while others may linger for years and how they need the prayers of God fearing people. They are deprived of most of the things they need.

THE FIRST RAIN FOR MONTHS

We had a good prayer meeting last night but the preaching services for the week have all been hindered so far by the rain. It is the first rain for months, the river is dryer than it was ever seen at this time of the year, but they say plenty of water is coming down. This is Tuesday the 29th of December. Christmas has passed and I hope it was a good one for you all there. We had no special services, but on Saturday night our house was filled and the Lord was among us. Sunday all day was a great one, our Sunday School was blessed and in the afternoon I went to the leper's home and there a warm reception as usual. On Christmas day, some who thought they were doing charity, called there with a badly organized band of music. They advised them not to listen to the gospel for it only brought confusion, but the reply of some of them to this was that the gospel had cleared up the confusion in which they had lived all their lives. For the evening service there were no less than 25 men from up river. I had never seen any of them before; they expressed themselves as having enjoyed the service.

THE SMALLPOX HINDERS BAPTISMS

We are expecting a boat today or tomorrow and as soon as I can will go up river. Am expecting two brethren to come for me most anytime. I don't feel like making the journey, the rains are beginning to fall, the sun is so hot and the rain water is like ice. I am waiting to see if there are any letters for me so that I can make reply now because when I go, I perhaps will remain for a long time. The pastor will return next week if the Lord wills; there will be a vacant house that he can occupy. I did not feel like leaving until he returned. In case I receive something from you tomorrow I will try to reply in this same letter. There were three to be baptized last Sunday but they fell with the smallpox and were unable. There seems to be quite a bit of smallpox now in the interior, not so much in the town. The doctor we have doesn't know how to treat it and nobody wants him. I hope you are all well and happy. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen.

J F Brandon

We are happy that it is our privilege to send to you these letters from from our beloved missionary, J F Brandon of Brazil. These letters made us happy and we feel sure that they will be a blessing to you also. We rejoice over the souls saved and then baptized because of the preaching of the Word by His servant. The Lord has promised that His word "shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." We are thankful that the Lord lets us have a part with you in the support of this New Testament Baptist Mission Work. May others join with us in its support.

MARCH

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1943

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1943

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

Bojhel Baptist Church-----	Roseville Mich-----	\$ 22.02
Bellview Baptist Church-----	Paducah Ky-----	6.00
First Baptist Church-----	Fresno Cal-----	9.90
Buffalo Avenue Baptist Church--	Tampa Fla-----	25.00 *
* \$15.00 designated for the Outboard Motor		
South Union Baptist Church-----	Cadiz Ky-----	36.25
Liberty Baptist Church-----	Toledo Ohio-----	5.08
Grace Baptist Church-----	Detroit Mich-----	27.50
E Y P U Grace Baptist Church---	" "-----	26.00 *
* \$16.00 designated for the Outboard Motor		
Harmony Baptist Church-----	Detroit Mich-----	51.28
North Fork Baptist Church-----	Puryear Tenn-----	3.00
White Plains Baptist Church----	White Plainses Ky-----	5.00
Benton Baptist Church-----	Benton Ky-----	106.23 *
* \$4.00 designated for the Outboard Motor.		
First Baptist Church-----	Wheaton Ill-----	65.50
Miss Georgia Brandon of Benton Bap. Ch.	Benton Ky-----	25.00 *
* \$25.00 designated for the Outboard Motor		
Mrs Thos H Crider of Scott's Grove Bap. Ch.	Murray Ky----	5.00
Gordon Ceperley-----	Dallas Tex-----	5.00
Mrs Carolyn Shepherd-----	Detroit Mich-----	5.00
Mrs Anna Coulter-----	Greenbrier Tenn-----	1.00
Mrs E H Purdom-----	Elmhurst Ill-----	2.00
John Hancock-----	Plymouth Mich-----	5.00
A R Tinker-----	Jackson Tenn-----	10.00
Marie Brandon-----	Paducah Ky-----	5.00
John Brandon-----	Benton Ky-----	5.00
James Brandon-----	" "-----	1.18
David Brandon-----	" "-----	3.10
Donald Overbey-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
John Babian-----	" "-----	1.00
Frances Meyer-----	" "-----	5.00
Dale Overbey-----	" "-----	1.00
Betty Day-----	" "-----	1.00
Dorothy Arison-----	" "-----	1.00
Oscar Ahlswede-----	Glen Ellyn Ill-----	5.00
Mrs Walter Powers-----	Tennessee Ridge Tenn-----	2.00
Mrs Dora Woolson-----	Muskokee Okla-----	1.00
A Friend-----	Detroit Mich-----	5.00 *
* \$5.00 designated for the Outboard Motor		

(Signed Z E Clark)

Total \$484.04

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRESNO CAL

The supporters of the mission work of J F Brandon in Brazil are growing in number. We are happy to add the First Baptist Church of Fresno Cal to the list of Baptist Churches who support this work. We thank you beloved and trust that you will pray much about this work which is now your work. This mission work which we love to help support and then tell others about, is the same kind that the New Testament tells about. Our Lord commanded the churches to go and make disciples and baptize them and to teach them to observe all things (instruct them). Anything less than our Lord commanded is not New Testament missions.

The mailing list for the Mission Sheets continues to grow. Friends who read them want others to read them and send us their names and addresses. Others write requesting that they be put on the mailing list. The Mission Sheets are sent free to all. Each month we receive offerings designated to help in this expense. At present the cost for getting these Mission Sheets out is approximately \$14.00 a month. We received help in February from the following: Mrs H P Dunton \$1.00, Elder Harold R Elliott \$1.00 and Mr John Hancock \$1.00. Miss Dorothy Arison addressed the envelopes for us. We are thankful for the help from these.

OUTBOARD MOTOR AND LOUD SPEAKER

You will note from the financial report on page 5 that \$65.00 was designated to help purchase the outboard motor and loud speaker. We hope to be able to send these to Brother Brandon in the not too distant future. The total in this fund is now \$257.81. We trust that you will ask the Lord what he would have you give over and above your regular offerings. You will also note from the report that offerings were received from the following nine States: Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas and California.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE WORK

Pastor Z E Clark of the Harmony Baptist Church of Detroit writes: "I have been thinking very seriously recently about enlargement of the work in Brazil in that of native workers, and if the Lord should lay it on the heart of another missionary to go from here to help Brother Brandon, and he certainly needs help. The scriptural way is; two and two, and he needs the company and strength a sincere God called man would be to him. Discouragements can be met better where two can mutually discuss and plan and pray together about it. Well to make a long story short the Lord is laying it upon the hearts of folks to supply the money and He never makes a mistake. He certainly aims at enlarging the work."

MISSIONARIES NEEDED

We made mention in the September and November issues of the Mission Sheets of Brother Brandon saying; "With a good missionary to work with me and with twenty five native preachers, we could evangelize the Amazon Valley in a few years and have Baptist Churches in the towns and villages up and down the Amazon river and its tributaries." What a challenge this is to us as Baptists. Surely we must meet it. J F Brandon has been preaching the gospel to the lost in Brazil for more than 19 years. He knows the mission needs there from long, hard and hot years of experience. He knows the Amazon Valley from the mouth of the Amazon river to the border of Peru and from the mouth of the Jurua river to the border of Peru again. He has organized 7 Baptist Churches and ordained 6 native Baptist preachers and baptized over 600 believers. He needs help. He needs a God called missionary to go from here to work with him. He needs 25 native preachers to work with him. Let us accept the challenge and pray that God will call a man to go and help. Let us pray that God will raise up the native preachers. Let us give as never before and pray that God will lay it upon the hearts of others to give that these He will call may be supported. Brethren it is time for us "Launch out into the deep. Send all offerings for the mission work to:

Elder Z E Clark
5216 Concord Ave
Detroit Michigan