

APRIL

J F BRANDON BAPTIST MISSIONARY

1943

Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil, South AmericaWheaton Illinois April 1943LETTERS FROM HOME

Cruzeiro do Sul Jan 7 1943

There is a boat in port that is slated to leave in the morning so I see that I can write you a few lines, perhaps I had better. I received three letters from you on this boat, two from my wife and the first I have received from my children came now and I am so happy, they were so sweet to me. Letter No 8 and the September Mission Sheets with a copy of Bro Hall's paper (THE TABERNACLE TESTIFIER) a clipping from Bro Powell (THE CLARION) and a letter that was sent to me while I was in Miami that I did not receive. I do so rejoice in the Lord for he is doing things that we were not looking for. But he is the Lord with an unlimited resource and a better blessing that satisfies for all who will trust Him, blessed be His name. He said "Learn of Me" and I feel that we both need to do this. I also received No 9 with the Mission Sheets for October. These Mission Sheets were to me more than attractive, I feel that they were inspired in the way that God inspires us to carry on for Him now. The other letter was No 5. My soul was as one who dwelleth in a desert land. I have heard no one preach but myself, neither have I heard a radio since I left there last May, and my friend I am so tired of hearing my own voice, I wonder if others are not becoming weary too? I sometimes wish I had a hut in the forest where I could go and rest and be alone for a season or open a radio and hear the voice of a fellow countryman once more. That will be however in its time. Letter No 7 with August Mission Sheets came two months ago, also letter No 6. July Mission Sheets with letter No 4 and also June Mission Sheets with letters Nos 2 & 3. Letter No 1 and May Mission Sheets. That is all that I have to date.

A CRITICAL TIME FOR OUR WORK

I feel that now is a critical time for our work. God is really developing it, giving it publicity as it never before enjoyed. There must be something else to do here before the night comes and no man can work. I want us to be careful, prayerful, patient, prudent, submissive and kind; sincere and truthful. We do not need money bad enough to exaggerate the truth, but try to use what we get to the glory of the Lord Jesus and the better way to spread the gospel. Now I am in great need of a motor, it will be impossible to buy one here. I never saw things so high in all my life, if I should give you a list of prices you could hardly believe it and the worse part is that there are so many things that we can not get at all that we really need. I think your system for circulating the letters is a wonderful plan and the Lord is putting his favor upon it. Do not entertain discouraging thoughts if things do not work out as planned, just remember Ps 31:15 and if our days are unequal, some better, some worse just remember that the worse ones are in the hands of the One who loves as are the better ones, Praise the Lord. Let us pray for Him to raise up some one to help me, for I really need a companion at arms. I hope soon to be working with some of the natives but life is so dear now and everything so difficult, I have not thought it well to hurry into work without meditation and prayer. I can begin anytime now so far as money is concerned, so let us seek the Lord about this also, for just anybody can not work in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Fear not, I am with thee; has been ringing in my ears for many days and I wonder just what is around the corner. Oh for contentment with Godly fear, for that is great gain, says the word.

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Brother I must close this, time is limited and my eyes are not so well I have used them a lot here of late. Remember me to all the brethren and friends, your family and my own. Love to all in the Lord Jesus and peace be multiplied, Amen. Sincerely J F Brandon

We keep a copy and number each letter that we write to Brother Brandon so that we can tell if he gets all of them. You will note that up to Jan 7 1943 he had received the first nine although not in the order that they were sent to him. He received Numbers 5, 8, and 9 at the same time. Number 5 was dated in Wheaton Ill July 22 and he received it in Jan 1943. No 7 was dated Aug 16 and No 6 Aug 2 yet he received these two months before he received No 5. No 9 was dated Oct 18 which was the latest one he received. You will also note that he received letters from his wife and children. It must have been a time of rejoicing when that boat docked at Cruzeiro do Sul. Among the other things for us to note with interest is his need of a "companion at arms" The one that the Lord will call to go as a missionary to help him may be in your church. Let us pray earnestly about this matter.

Cruzeiro do Sul Jan 13 1943

A LEPER SAVED

Sunday was a fine day with us, the Lord sent the rain in another direction and we had great liberty in preaching. All of the services were well attended. In the afternoon I went as usual to the lepers home and such a service as we had. The Lord did bless them. There was a young man there, not more than 25 I would say, his father is very bitter against the gospel but he has been listening very attentively for several months. Sunday when he came up to where we were, he was all smiles and requested that we sing that chorus that says "I have peace in my heart today." I then ask him "Do you have it brother?" and he replied "Yes I have it." And I feel that he did have it and will keep it too. You know that it makes me mighty happy when the Lord saves one of these poor needy souls and no doubt there are some of the Lord's little ones there. They don't buy bread for them and when at all possible I take a bag of crackers to them and they do appreciate them too. You people there can't imagine what a treat it is to those poor and afflicted ones to have these crackers. There I suppose one would expect donuts or waffles but here it is different. In our services in the evening there were quite a number of people that were from out of town. I did not know them but they all promised to return.

KEEPING A DIARY

I begun the first of the year to take note of one or two things that just would happen. I do not know how long I can continue, there are so many things that come up in the run of a day. There has been a lot of sickness here of late and I never did do so much visiting and in every place they were glad to have me read the Word and pray for them. I am ready to depart early in the morning. An excluded member who lives up river came to our services last night and invited me to go along with him. He has four men employed to paddle and it may make it better for me. I am leaving this letter in the post office, however there is no boat in port and I may not be gone so long, but if the way is opened I will go to the confines this time and may be that I will delay. I hope that all is well with you all. God bless you dear brother and give you clear vision in all that he will have you do. Remember me to all the brethren, your family and mine.

I appreciate being remembered by the dear brother of Wheaton College, I don't remember his name, and the doctor who was so attentive to me while I was there. I am sure that you enjoyed your visit to Toledo, Bro Morgan is a lovely man and I am sure that the meeting was deeply spiritual and greatly blessed of the Lord. I am so happy that the churches took the stand that they did. I feel that it was all of the Lord, in answer to prayer. When the Lord works, none can hinder. Grace be multiplied unto all who love the coming of the Lord Jesus, and His peace possess your minds and hearts until that day, Amen.

Sincerely, J F Brandon

NEW TESTAMENT MISSION WORK

J F Brandon has been doing New Testament Baptist Mission Work in Brazil for over 19 years. Eighteen of these years his dear wife labored by his side. They are faith Missionaries. They went out on faith, and have done their work in the past on faith and are today still on faith and that alone. Mrs Brandon and the children are in the homeland and live at Benton Ky. Because of their health and the need of schooling for the children and the present war conditions they had to return to the homeland for a season. Their three oldest sons are in the service of their country. Corporal George Brandon is on the front in North Africa. Sergeant Joe Brandon Jr is at the Army Air Base in Millville N J and Private John Brandon is in Fort Sill Okla. Missionary J F Brandon is Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil which is in the foothills of the Andes mountains, 3500 miles by boat from the mouth of the Amazon river. He does the kind of mission work that the Lord Jesus commissioned the churches to do, nothing more and nothing less. He does not claim to be anything other than a sinner saved by grace. God called him preach. The God who called him to preach, called him to be a Missionary to the lost in Brazil. God has blessed his ministry by saving hundreds of lost Brazilians. When we get to heaven we expect to see Brazilians by the thousands praise their redeemer because J F Brandon was sent to preach the gospel to them.

BAPTIST CHURCHES ORGANIZED

He has organized seven Baptist Churches and ordained six native Baptist preachers. He and his family have suffered many hardships. They have suffered from long and hard attacks of fever. They know what it is to be persecuted for preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus. With Adoniram Judson that great Baptist Missionary of Burma of generations past, he knows what it is to return from a long missionary journey and find the grave where a loved one has been buried while he was away. And yet with that great Baptist Missionary Paul he can say: "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish the course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24

DETROIT RIVER ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARY BAPTISTS

Mrs J F Brandon spoke to the Ladies Bible Classes of this Association at their quarterly meeting which was held in the Grace Baptist Church of Detroit Michigan on April 5 1943. She also spoke to the women of the Harmony Baptist Church while. Our home was blessed by having her visit us for three days on her way back to Benton. She is available to speak to the women and children of your church. She would be a blessing to you. Her address is Box 54 Benton Ky.

HOW MISSION MONEY IS USED

Not one cent of mission money is taken out for overhead or any other kind of expenses. Brother Z E Clark carries the account in a Detroit Bank. The Banks service charges and the cost for drafts for sending the funds to the Bank in Manaus Brazil to the account of J F Brandon are unavoidable. Not even money for postage is taken out. Pastor Z E Clark pays the postage personally. The cost for mimeographing the Mission Sheets and sending them to you is paid for by those who love the work and give over and above their regular mission offerings that news from the mission field might be brought into your home. Offerings that are designated go for that purpose. All others go for the support of J F Brandon and his family and his mission work in Brazil. All funds over and above his support are used for supporting the native preachers who labor with him and for journeys to the "regions beyond" and in the building of churches.

SEVEN CHURCHES AND SEVEN BUILDINGS

Each of the seven churches that J F Brandon has organized has a church building. The church at Esperanca has a frame building with board floors and a metal roof. The church at Catua has a frame building with board floor and a thatch roof. The church at Boa Fe (Copia) is a board building with a thatch roof. The church at Coary is a brick building with cement floor and a tile roof. The church at Codajaz has mud walls (mud on a frame work like plaster) with a board floor and a metal roof. The church at Japyni is a frame building with board floor and a metal roof. The church at Cruzeiro do Sul is a frame building with board floor and a metal roof. This building is not completed. It is small and not in the best location. All seven of these church buildings have been paid for almost entirely by J F Brandon out of the offerings sent to him over and above his living expenses. The rest of the help was from the native members. He has also supported native pastors and missionaries as far as he has had the funds to do so. This is New Testament Mission Work. It is the kind that Baptists love and love to support.

INTERFERENCE FROM OTHERS

J F Brandon has had many experiences of having others interfere with his mission work. The field that he works in is one of the world's most difficult. There are many places for thousand of miles on many rivers where no mission work is being done. Yet he has seen others pass all these destitute places by, and come to interfere with the work of his labor of love in the places that he has established churches and preaching points; that were, before he labored hard for years to establish, as destitute as the places they could not see in passing by. These churches are many miles apart. The church at Codajaz is about 200 miles up the Amazon river from and west of Manaus. The church at Coary is about 100 miles west of Codajaz up the Amazon river. The church at Boa Fe is about 150 miles west of Codajaz on the Copia river which is north of and parallel to the Amazon river. The church at Catua is about 200 miles west of Codajaz up the Amazon river. (About 100 miles west of Coary.) The church at Esperanca is about 800 miles west of Codajaz up the Amazon river (on the Peruvian border) and about 600 miles from Catua which is the nearest church to it. These five churches are in the State of Amazonas. Four of them are on the Amazon river and the other on the Copia river. (Continue on page 6)

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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 1943

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Report of mission offerings received from March 3 1943 to April 3 1943 for the support of Missionary J F Brandon and family and his mission work in Brazil with designated offerings for the outboard motor etc:

Richland Baptist Church-----	Calhoun Ky-----	\$ 50.00
Bellview Baptist Church-----	Paducah Ky-----	18.13
Boyd's Hill Baptist Church-----	Cadiz Ky-----	17.00
New Cypress Baptist Church-----	Greenville Ky-----	25.00
White Plains Baptist Church-----	White Plains Ky-----	5.00
Benton Baptist Church-----	Benton Ky-----	40.35
Buffalo Ave Baptist Church-----	Tampa Fla-----	10.00
Harmony Baptist Church-----	Detroit Mich-----	50.91
Grace Baptist Church-----	Detroit Mich-----	33.00*
* \$5.00 designated for the outboard motor		
Grace Baptist Church B Y P U-----	Detroit Mich-----	10.00
Grace Baptist Church Ladies Bible Class--	Detroit Mich-----	25.00
* \$25.00 designated for the outboard motor		
Fenton Road Baptist Church-----	Flint Mich-----	8.14
Liberty Baptist Church-----	Toledo Ohio-----	8.50
First Baptist Church-----	Wheaton Ill-----	71.05
First Baptist Church Sunday School-----	Wheaton Ill-----	5.00
Mr and Mrs John Schoonhoven-----	Western Springs Ill-----	15.00
J F and Ruby Krause-----	Westwego La-----	15.00
Mrs E H Purdom-----	Elmhurst Ill-----	2.00
Alex Sumpter-----	Union Grove Wis-----	1.00
Ralph Claybaugh-----	Union Grove Wis-----	10.00
Fay Wing Jr-----	Chicago Ill-----	5.00
Philip Hughey Jr-----	New York N Y-----	5.00
Marie Brandon-----	Paducah Ky-----	5.00
Rebecca and Betty Brandon-----	Benton Ky-----	3.00
A Friend-----	Tampa Fla-----	1.00
Don Grollimund-----	Wheaton Ill-----	2.00
Astrid Strom-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Carl Vining-----	Wheaton Ill-----	3.00
John Babian-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Naomi Franz-----	Wheaton Ill-----	2.00
Betty Day-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Holsinger Brothers-----	Wheaton Ill-----	5.00
Donald Overbey-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Dale Overbey-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Dorothy Arison-----	Wheaton Ill-----	2.00

(Signed) Z E Clark

Total

\$458.08

RICHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

"Enclosed check for fifty dollars (\$50.00) for Rev J F Brandon, sent by Richland Missionary Baptist Church. Please forward if you can still commune with him. We were supporting a missionary in China, Rev B S Ding, but something happened, we can't reach him any more. The last check was returned. Would like to know if you get it through all right. Yours in Christ. (Signed) Mrs Urnis Nalley." All of the supporters J F Brandon's mission work in Brazil join with us in hearty thanks to saints of Richland Baptist Church for their fine offering. We are happy to add them to the list of supporting churches. This is a good example for other churches who are not able to carry on the mission work they have been doing because of the war. May great grace be upon Brother B S Ding in these trying times in China.

INTERFERENCE FROM OTHERS

(Continued from page 4) We leave Manaus the capitol of the State of Amazonas and go up the Amazon river about 500 miles to the mouth of the Jurua river and then go up the Jurua river about 2000 miles. Here we find the church at Cruzeiro do Sul which is about 2100 miles from the church at Catua. We leave Cruzeiro do Sul and continue up the Jurua river a short distance and then we turn west up the mouth of the Moa river until we come to the mouth of the Moura river and then up this river for a short distance where we find the church of Japyni which is 30 miles from Cruzeiro do Sul. About half way between Cruzeiro do Sul and Japyni and north of the Moa river a short distance into the forest we come to a place called Morapirango. Here we find about 50 believers who are members of the church at Cruzeiro do Sul. The Lord willing, Brother Brandon will soon organize a church here at Morapirango. At another writing we hope to be able to give you the name and perhaps a map showing the location of the many preaching points that he has established.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE MISSION SHEETS

It was our happy privilege to be with Pastor Z E Clark and the saints of Harmony Baptist Church in Detroit both morning and evening on Sunday April 4, 1943. This church of about 50 members has the box plan of giving. The box has two compartments, one for tithe and the other for offerings. The total offerings for the day was over \$200.00. Their budget provides that a certain percent of the funds not designated shall go for missions. The question is often asked how this church of 50 members in a rented building gives so much for missions. We believe that we can answer it. The pastor leads the way. He preaches and practices missions. He puts from \$50.00 to \$70.00 each month into the box. Nearly every member is a tither and most of them give more than the tithe. Brother Clark does not know that we are writing this (and he will forgive us) but it is necessary to answer the question that so many ask. It is a great joy to stand in his pulpit and speak to his people. While we were there they gave \$30.62 to help get these Mission Sheets mimeographed and sent to you. Pastor Clark gave \$10.00. His three grandsons, Billy, Wayne and L E gave \$11.00 which they saved by putting coins into a mission bank. The B Y P U gave \$4.45 and the Adult class gave \$5.17 making a total of \$30.62. Thank you beloved and may the honor be to our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are happy to say to you that the Mission Sheets for this and the following month are coming to you because of the offerings from the Harmony Baptist Church. These Mission Sheets are sent free to all.

MISSION NEEDS

We need another Missionary to go and work with Brother Brandon. Maybe the one the Lord has for the place is in your church. We need 25 native preachers to work under his direction. We need the offerings for their support. Perhaps the Lord has spoken to your heart about having a part, or a greater part in this mission work. Maybe you have been waiting for the opportunity to give to a mission work of the kind that the New Testament tells about. Will you join with us in saying: "Lord what will you have me give?" Send all offerings for the mission work to

Elder Z E Clark
5216 Concord Ave
Detroit Michigan