

JANURARY

J F BRANDON BAPTIST MISSIONARY
Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil, South America
Wheaton Illinois Janurary 1944

1944

Cruzeiro do Sul, Oct 25 1943

BAPTIZING AT CRUZEIRO DO SUL

There were three baptized Sunday afternoon, three men, a large crowd gathered at the water, we had preaching services, it was a nice cool shady place and the people very attentive. The night service was hindered because of rain, yet there were 18 altogether and such a rain as it was. There is a man here who says he is almost crazy because he has not obeyed the gospel. He says he can never be any better until he does obey the Lord Jesus and I believe he is right about it and hope that soon I can tell you that all is well with his soul. I hope that all is well with you all and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be multiplied unto you all, Amen. Sincerely J F Brandon

FIRST PROFESSION OF FAITH IN THE NEW MISSION HOME

Cruzeiro do Sul, Nov 3 1943

Your letter number 24 came today with the Mission Sheets for August. I am happy, more than I can write on paper. Such blessings as the Lord is bestowing upon us, two souls were saved Sunday morning in our teaching services and in the afternoon there were three baptized. Monday afternoon there came a terrible rain but after it passed, about seven oclock there came about 20 people to the mission home and said: "We just had to come to sing and pray, however we knew that services were not to be here." The rain made it impossible for us to go to the place where it was announced so we had a good meeting in the mission home. Last night in the home, at the close of the services a young man came weeping and said he didn't know what was the matter with him, he was never quite so happy yet he couldn't control himself, he just had to cry. I thought that would do for the first profession of faith in the new mission home. As I embraced the boy I said in his ear, I am so happy, and his reply was, and I much more.

TO GO ON A MISSIONARY JOURNEY

I had a journey planned for today but Providence overuled it and if the Lord wills I will go tomorrow. Two men will go with me if the Lord wills and one will remain here another in the village. A young lady sent word last night, requesting the church to pray for her, you see her father is very bitter against the gospel and she wants the liberty to attend the services but he will not consent. We had special prayer and expect to see her soon among us. Brother we are all so happy, I do wish you could pass a week with us. I was impressed today, a letter came from my sister, she said that when she told me good by that she thought then we would meet no more, but recently she had thought as she prayed that the Lord would again send me back there. Then I opened your letter number 24, in which you recall the times we were together in prayer and if I am not mistaken you expressed a desire for us to again to be thus associated. Now in the providence of God that may be. I have not sought my own will brother, neither am I seeking it now. The will of the Lord be done. You open a number of subjects in your letter, first let me say that here it is either a feast or a famine and if I had the gold of the vatican it would be no greater blessing to me than it has been to the popes. For when there is nothing to buy, money has lost its value. I do not complain but my health has not been up to standard lately, yet the Lord has given me strength to work every day and preach most every night. The nights I could not go another went so

the work has not been neglected. At times the believers have more than they can consume and they bring to me in abundance. At such times there is no expense but at other times I am obliged to help them. I do not love money, I do not want to waste it and for that reason some think in error. I can say this, that the cost of living here at present is greater than I ever saw it anywhere in my life. The hot sun seems to offend me more than anything else, and trying to avoid it recently I have remained Cruzeiro do Sul most of the summer, but the work has been constant you may be sure, and I believe that fruit will come of it. You reassure me of your love for me in the Lord and your determination to be faithful to the work in which we are associated.. Brother I appreciate that far more than I can write on paper. I marvel at your faithfulness and I call God to witness that my admiration for you as a friend and brother is greater than I can express. The burden of the Wheaton Church is still on my heart, I never pray without praying for her.

EVANGELIZING THE AMAZON VALLEY

Now as to your challenge for the evangelation of the Valley; Now if it should be as you suggest, I would have to live in Manaus for that is the most suitable place if a general mission movement should be planned and adopted. I need a companion at arms. At times I feel that I can not live long. But these brethren plead with God to give me a long life. That is something that I have never asked for for myself. I don't know why, yet I may hang on until the end. I am laboring to get things in better condition on the Jurua river. If a brother comes and things work out so that he will relieve me of this work, then I will be free to go to other parts with the intention of opening and maintaining work in other parts on other rivers and in that case I will have to live in Manaus. I am willing for any of you to ask questions and give council for my strength indeed is small and I am trying to do right and not live in secret sin.

ENTIRE AMAZON VALLEY DESTITUTE

This part where I now live will perhaps not need 25 workers but all of the rest of the valley is as destitute as this. In passing let me say that one of the principal brethren in Manaus said to me as I passed through there last year, that at the rate they were going they would soon be back with the Roman church, that is the Board System. I do not doubt it. The Moody missionaries however are working there now and I understand are getting a hold, but none seem to want to go to the interior. I am ready to go where the Lord says go, that is I feel that I am. New experiences cast new lights upon old subjects. I once thought I could not leave here, and until now I have no leading to go elsewhere but if I could serve in some other place better, I am ready to travel. But I cannot leave suddenly, for the work is not like I want to have it when the Lord comes, or when I turn it over to another worker. After I return from this journey now planned I will write you. Pray and then write to me again. Our telegraph here is out of order and has been for two months. I will try to get away tomorrow and must close now. Grace mercy and peace be multiplied unto you all through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen and Amen. Sincerely, J F Brandon

If the Lord lays it on your heart to have a part in this New Testament Baptist Faith Mission work, we welcome you to join with us. Send all offerings for the mission work to. Elder Z E Clark
5216 Concord Ave
Detroit 11 Mich

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1943

Report of mission offerings received from December 5 1943 to Janurary 5 1943 for the support of Missionary J F Brandon and family and the mission work in general in Brazil under Brother Brandon's supervision:

South Side Baptist Church-----	Winter Haven Fla-----	\$ 15.00
Bellview Baptist Church-----	Paducah Ky-----	16.17
Tabernacle Baptist Church-----	Lewisburg Ky-----	40.00
North Side Baptist Church--WMS-----	Mayfield Ky-----	5.00
North Ballard Baptist Church-----	Wickliffe Ky-----	10.00
Buffalo Avenue Baptist Church-----	Tampa Fla-----	24.00
North Fork Baptist Church-----	Puryear Tenn-----	5.00
South Union Baptist Church-----	Cadiz Ky-----	17.20
White Plains Baptist Church-----	White Plains Ky-----	5.00
Scotts Grove Baptist Church-----	Murray Ky-----	40.00
First Baptist Church-----	Wheaton Ill-----	67.40
Benton Baptist Church-----	Benton Ky-----	43.14
Liberty Baptist Church-----	Toledo Ohio-----	7.60
Bethel Baptist Church-----	Roseville Mich-----	7.13
Grace Baptist Church-----	Detroit Mich-----	72.97
Grace Baptist Church BYPU-----	Detroit Mich-----	10.00
Harmony Baptist Church-----	Detroit Mich-----	17.00
A Friend-----		10.00
A Supporter-----		23.00
Roy Lee-----	Murray Ky-----	3.00
Mrs E H Purdom-----	Elmhurst Ill-----	10.00
Gerald K Elder-----	U S Navy-----	20.00
Mrs Anna Coulter-----	Mt Vernon Ind-----	1.00
Don Grollumund-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Astrid Strom-----	Wheaton Ill-----	2.00
Carl Vining-----	U S Navy Air Force-----	5.00
Oscar Ahlswede-----	Glen Ellyn Ill-----	5.00
Naomi Franz-----	Wheaton Ill-----	5.00
Dale Overbey-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Donald Overbey-----	Wheaton Ill-----	1.00
Holsinger Brothers-----	Wheaton Ill-----	20.00
Mrs Walter Powers-----	Tennessee Ridge Tenn---	2.50

(Signed) Z E Clark

Total \$512.11

NORTH BALLARD BAPTIST CHURCH

Brother F R Bingham is the pastor of the North Ballard Baptist Church Wickliffe Ky. He writes in part: "This is the first time our church here has made an offering to Brother Brandon's work--but probably wont be the last time. I enjoyed the little bit of fellowship I had with you recently while supplying for Brother Arterburn. Will you please send me a number of the Mission Sheets so that I can distribute them among the members of my church." Thank you beloved for your offering and we are happy to send the Mission Sheets for your good people. In the last 14 issues of the Mission Sheets (Dec 1942 to Jan 1944) we have reported offerings from 16 different baptist churches who have joined the list of those who support Brother J F Brandon's mission work in Brazil. We have had a new church to report each month since Dec 42 except for the months of June and Dec of 1943. Three new ones for one month and two each for two months. Will you not pray: "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?"

MISSION SHEETS TWO YEARS OLD

The Mission Sheets are now two years old. The first issue of one page went out to about 30 homes in Janurary 1942. We began the second year with an issue of four pages which went out to about 750 homes in Janurary 1943. With this issue of four pages which goes out to about 1140 homes we begin our third year. We try to edit the Mission Sheets for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the interest of the New Testament Baptist Faith Mission Work in Brazil under the leadership of J F Brandon who is now in his 21st year as a missionary on that field. The Mission Sheets are FOR AND ABOUT MISSIONS. It is a joy and privilege to us to edit the Mission Sheets and we are thankful for the help from others towards the expense. In December 1943 we received the following help: \$2.00 from E R Nall, \$5.00 from Mrs Thomas Crider, \$1.00 from Mrs Cecil R Ryan and 50¢ from Mrs Walter Powers. We are thankful beloved and may the Lord bless you. Pray for us.

"I NEED A COMPANION AT ARMS"

In the letter from Brother Brandon in this issue he said: "I need a companion at arms. At times I feel that I can not live long." He is now in his 21st year as a missionary in Brazil and still no missionary as a companion at arms. Brother H.B Taylor (who is now in heaven) said in the Dec 2 1931 issue of News and Truths: "Nelson and Son and Joe Brandon and Will Jones are the Baptist hope in the Amazon section of Brazil." Brother E A Nelson labored in the Amazon Valley for about 48 years (1891-1939). He died on the field and was buried at Manaos. And now 12 years after H B Taylor wrote these words only Joe Brandon is left as the "Baptist hope". It is true that the field is destitute and hard. Yes the sun is hot, the rains heavy, the mud deep and the air is stuffy and malaria fever is ever present. Some have gone to fail and return and others have gone and returned before failing. And yet the call rings in our ears: "Come over and help us." "I Need a companion at arms". J F Brandon organized five Baptist churches in the State of Amazonas in the Amazon Valley: Coary 1932, Esperanca 1932, Codajaz 1932, Boa Fe 1933 and Catua 1935. Out of the offerings sent to him J F Brandon built or purchased a church building for each of these five churches. The native brethren had but little to contribute. He left them in the care of ordained native Baptist preachers and went to Cruzeiro do Sul to get the Acre Territory evangelized and while away these five churches were taken from him. If he had had another missionary as a companion at arms to leave on the field in care of the work this would not have happened. These five churches were in good condition when taken from him but have been going down ever since, and the native brethren have ask him to return and rebuild the work. But how can he return and rebuild the work in this field 2500 miles away or go and open a new field when he does not have a missionary trained to leave in care of the three churches and many preaching points on the field that he is now on? The native missionaris are doing a great and good work and we need at least 20 more of them but they need someone to help them and lead them. What a privilege for two new missionaris to go and learn the language (Portuguese) and how to do New Testament mission work at the feet of this man of God who has been and is being so greatly used. Let us pray that the Lord will send two men and that soon. They must be God called men. They must be men willing to go on faith and faith alone. Our God is able and he will not fail us.