

MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL
 BROTHER and MRS. JOHN HATCHER
 BROTHER and MRS. HAROLD BRATCHER
 BROTHER and MRS. BOBBY CREIGLOW
 BROTHER and MRS. MICHAEL CREIGLOW
 BROTHER and MRS. PAUL HATCHER
 BROTHER and MRS. ASA MARK BRATCHER
 BROTHER and MRS. ROBERT WACASER
 BROTHER and MRS. GEORGE BEAN
 (Portuguese Language)

MISSION SHEETS

BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

Directors: Sidney Fisher, Pres.; Jim Orrick, Vice-Pres.;
 Edward Overbey, Sec.; Glenn Archer, Treas.; Hafford Overbey;
 Louis Maple; James Sims; Carl Morton; Wallace York; Paul Kirkman;
 Marvin Summers; Doug King; Millard Mitchell; John Mark Hatcher
**A NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST FAITH MISSION WORK, JUST LIKE THE
 LORD JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS CHURCH TO DO.**
 Go - Make Disciples - Baptize Them - Indoctinate Them - Mt. 28:19,20

MISSIONARIES TO PERU
 BROTHER and MRS. HOMER CRAIN
 BROTHER and MRS. SHERIDAN STANTON
 (Spanish Language)

VOL NO. 53

IN BRAZIL SINCE 1923 January ... 1994 PERU 1935

NO. 1



Brother Harold Bratcher gets ready to baptize new converts in Brazil.

Friend of BFM Dies

Brother Ray Gibbs, 87, went to be with the Lord on December 16, 1993. He was a member of Twelve Ryan Baptist Church, Warren, Michigan. He had been attending the Thanksgiving Conferences for many years. He was a good friend of missions. His son, Art Gibbs, served as a missionary in Peru for some years. He is survived by eight children and many friends. Remember his family in prayer at this time.

Pray for These Brethren

Brother H. H. Overbey fell and fractured a bone in his ankle.
 Brother Glenn Archer has been in the hospital with a kidney stone.
 Both are doing better.

Work at Six Churches During Month ... Some Saved ... Many Thanks ...

by Harold Bratcher



Caixa Postal 227
 69.011 Manaus, Amazonas
 Brazil, S.A.
 phone 011-5592-611-2331
 December 16, 1993

Dear Brethren:

This is the last Mission Sheet letter that I will write this year of 1993. May the Lord bless us all throughout the year of 1994. During this Mission Sheet Month I preached 12 sermons in six different churches.

Sunday morning, the 21st of November, I preached to the 22 people present at the 29th of March Baptist Mission, Manaus. That night I preached at the Monte das Oliveiras Baptist Church where Osvaldo Melo Rodrigues is the pastor. A former member of the 14th of December Baptist Church made a rededication.

Friday afternoon, Marie and I with Dona Janete Gomes Nunes (Stephen's mother-in-law) journeyed by commercial boat to Codajas. We were on the river almost 20 hours. Saturday night I preached to the 92 people present, celebrating the church's birthday - the 25th of December Baptist Church, Codajas, Amazonas. 79 people heard my Sunday morning message (there were 2 professions of faith) and an estimated 100 that night. Ortan Freitas Barbosa is the pastor. Sunday, December 5th found us back in Manaus. That morning, I preached to an estimated crowd of 170 at the Monte Horebe Baptist Church where Levir Perea Merlo is the pastor. That night on the mountain again, Monte Ararate Baptist Church, there were 78 present. The pastor is Kenneth Ray Loucks.

Wednesday morning found us again traveling on the river downstream to begin a 5 day meeting with the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Itacoatiara, Amazonas. This interior church was celebrating the 5th anniversary of its organization. I am the pastor there and Ediberto Ribeiro da Silva is the evangelist. The attendance was 54, 57 and 47 the first three nights. Saturday night before the service, supper was served. Pastor Edilson of the Beautiful Garden Baptist Church preached to 332 people. Around 100 could not get in. Sunday morning, December 12th, I preached to 74 and then I baptized three young people, ages 9, 11 and 16. That night we finished the meetings with the smallest attendance.

Thus, Brethren, we have shared with you another report from the land of eternal summer. Pray for us as both Marie and I (Marie more), are agreeing with the words of the hymn: "When your youthful days are gone ... And old age is stealing on ... And your body bends beneath the weight of care ... He will never leave you then ... He'll go with you to the end ... Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there." May all of us, young or old, do so for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ (praise His name). He will be young forever.

We thank you, dear friends, for the Christmas cards we have received from you. We thank you, faithful supporters, for giving so that we may go with the gospel. May we all be even more faithful during 1994 than we were during 1993? Amen.

Pray for us and we will be praying for many of you.

Yours in His Service,
 Harold & Marie Bratcher

MISSION STUDY

by John Hatcher

A Special Call

Missions is the essential work and purpose of the church. Previously, it has been shown that the work of the three persons of the Godhead is that given to the church - the redemption of sinners through the preaching of the Gospel to the glory and honor of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The plan of God in this respect is not a haphazard one, either in heaven or on the earth. It is planned in detail. God gives each member of the body a particular work. It is vital to that member's usefulness and happiness to know and do his job, "to work out his salvation with fear and trembling". This means to know the Lord's will and be diligent about doing it.

As to the leadership in the church and the ministry of the Word, there are special gifts or callings. It was for this reason that the Apostles found it necessary to have the church elect seven men to take care of the job which concerned the widows and orphans. In the Old Testament certain men were called to go to certain places or people. The parable of the talents will bear out the fact that God gives gifts to men according to His good pleasure. James 3:1 indicates that those with greater responsibility shall receive greater judgment. This is borne out in Hebrews 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account ..." A few examples from the Old Testament will suffice: Jonah went to Ninevah with the

message of repentance; Amos went to Bethel with the message of judgment; Hosea went to Israel with the message to backslidden Israel; Isaiah and Jeremiah went to Judah with the message of rebuke and warning; Daniel and Ezekiel went to the captives of Babylon with messages of consolation.

Likewise, in the New Testament the Holy Spirit calls men to special service and gives special gifts to equip them. Let us note a few examples. The apostles were specially chosen. Luke tells us in the sixth chapter of his account of the life of Christ, that He called unto Himself the disciples and chose out of them twelve which He named apostles. These were given special gifts as Paul seems to clearly indicate, in the book of II Corinthians 12:12, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds." Paul and Barnabas are two that were called. In the thirteenth chapter of the book of Acts, it is recorded that there were teachers and prophets in the church at Antioch and "the Holy Spirit spoke whereunto I have called them." Paul constantly referred to the fact of his calling - "called to be an apostle"; "called, not by the will of man. Timothy was also chosen of the Lord as Paul's second letter to him declares: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." In the book of Acts, 21:8 Phillip is called by the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist. This no doubt referring to his calling and gift of God.

How God Calls

Now the gifts of God have reached men through His Word whether written or spoken. In the Old Testament, the "Word of the Lord" comes to the prophets of God. This is still the method used by the Holy Spirit to call men to special service. Note in I Timothy 4:14, the writer says, "Neglect not the gift that is in these which was given by prophecy (preaching), with the laying on of hands of the presbytery." The Word of God exhorts that everything should be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. This very teaching seems to be held in the matter of the call of God to the ministry. The Holy Spirit speaks to the individual just as He does in the matter of salvation. The validity or verification of this call is to be witnessed by the church through the examination of the individual's life in accord with the qualifications set down in Timothy and Titus. Thus the witness of the individual and the witness of the church testify to the call and the called.

You will remember when Samuel went from place to place preaching the Word of God, men were not only saved but also called of God, and as a result several "schools of the prophets" were established by the prophet. The great effects of the "schools of the prophets" upon the spiritual life of Israel are usually underestimated. There is no doubt that among the called were the "lemons". There was the boy, Gehazi, who coveted gold and silver. But the fact

(Continued on Page 4)

MISSION SHEETS

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Baptize 18 . . .**Visit States for Vacation . . .****Building Plans for School and Taumaturgo . . .***by Mike Creiglow*

Caixa Postal 24 69980
Cruzeiro do Sul, AC
Brasil, S.A.
November 30, 1993



Dear Brethren:

In my last letter I mentioned that the river was low and barges could not get in. That was 2 months ago. This is now. It is raining every day, and I mean raining! The river is just about out of its banks. Our missionaries have already shifted over to the larger boats and left the dugouts behind until next summer.

In October we had a few more saved here at First Baptist Church and I baptized 9 more.

Also, in October I visited Faith Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church and Refuge Baptist Church. While at Calvary Baptist I was privileged to baptize 9 more. Refuge Baptist has just finished their new building. It is very nice - large brick, ceiling and they now have electricity. There were over 250 present for the dedication. They invited me to preach. Many of the other churches were represented and had special music. The visit to Faith Baptist was routine. The pastor assigned a subject, which he felt they needed the most, for me to teach.

Brother Moises and I have been back to Rodrigues Alves. We went to make final arrangements to begin building. Since then Moises, Paul and a few other brothers have been back twice to start and work on the parsonage. It is now framed and covered.

I did not write you last month. Bev and I made a trip to the States. We were gone for about a month. This was my first break of any kind for a year. It was great. We got to spend some time with our kids and grandkids. We also got to visit Victory Baptist Church in

Los Angeles, Napa Valley Baptist Church (also in California) and Bible Missionary Baptist Church in Hornbeck, Louisiana. Thanks to the pastors and churches for the refreshment and the good offerings.

We have been back for 2 weeks and I am still trying to get caught up on my work. Even so, many good things are already happening. The pre-school held its graduation this past weekend. It was held at church and, in spite of a monster storm, we still had a large crowd. The second wing of the school is under construction. The walls are up, but we are stopped for lack of funds. We must have this new wing by February (new school year) to be able to add the 4th and 5th grades. Pray with us.

Brother Jose Maia has met with me twice to finish plans for his move to Taumaturgo. I have also met with the mayor. The city there is going to donate the land and help us haul the building materials. We begin there early next month, Lord willing.

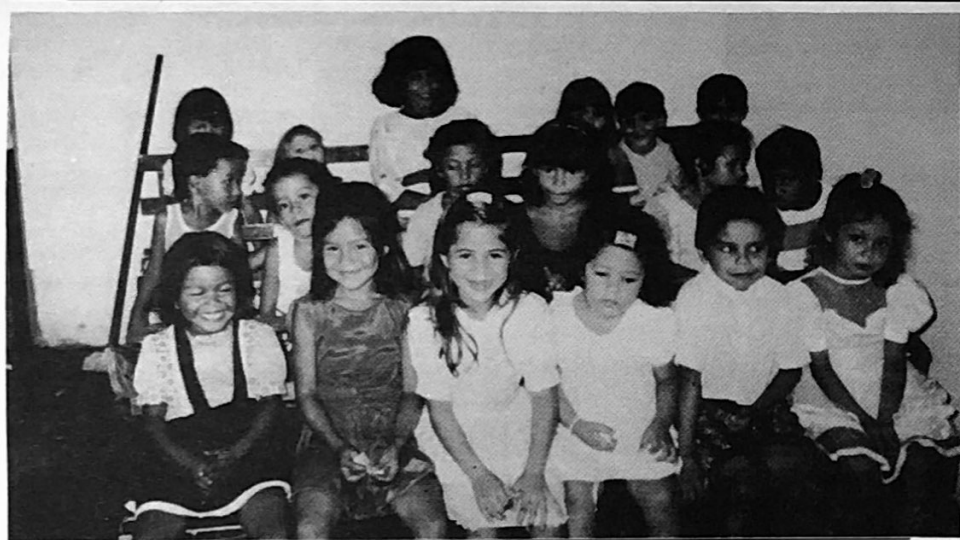
Then as soon as we begin that building, it will be time to start at Porto Walter. Lots of work ahead!

I have just talked to the pastor of our work in Rio Branco (Pastor Sullivan). The work there is going really well. They are now working in the state owned and operated orphanage, the state penitentiary and are making regular hospital visits. They have gotten most of the members involved. The attendance is growing and 4 more were saved last Sunday.

Time to close. Lord Bless all of you.

In Christ,

Mike Creiglow



A Sunday School Class at 25th of December Baptist Church, Codajas, Brazil.
Brother Harold Bratcher's work.

New Family Saved at Cantanhede . . .**Others Saved at Viva Esperanca and New Hope . . .****Story of Mrs. Maria's Salvation . . .***by George Bean*

Caixa Postal 500
65000 Sao Luis, MA
Brasil, SA
Phone 011-5598-223-6955
December 15, 1993

Dear Brethren:

It has not rained in São Luis for five months now; it is so hot, dry and dusty. The rainy season is trying to start. We have had a good month in all our works.

I preached one time at Anajatuba; they have new people coming to the services. I went to Cantanhede one time; they have had a new family saved and now coming to the services.

I preached three times at Viva Esperanca Baptist Church. A young man made a profession of faith. New Hope Baptist Church has had three professions of faith.

Vila Riód: Monday afternoon, June 21, 1993, Brother Netto and I went down a dusty street inviting people to come to our first services at Riód. We went by Mrs. Maria's house and left a tract and invited her to come to our services that night. Brother Sostenes preached, Mrs. Maria came with her daughter from the area. Mrs. Maria has been attending the services since that night. Almost six months later, on December 5, she came and made a profession of faith in Jesus. We sometimes forget how important it is to invite people to our services. We have had eight professions of faith at Vila Riód this month. I will be going to Alabama, December 14, and will return to Brasil, January 18, the Lord willing. May God bless all is my prayer.

Yours To Tell the Old Story,
George & June Bean

**Good Month With Several Saved . . .****Pray for Jasson at Novo Diamantino . . .****Pray for Ursula and Health Problems . . .***by Harold Draper*

Caixa Postal 3039
78.090 Cuiaba, Mt.
Brazil, S.A.
December 14, 1993



Dear Brethren:

We have had a good month. We had one saved and one asked for baptism at the Altos do Coxipó work. There were two professions of faith at the Chacara dos Pinheiros church. We observed the Lord's Supper there last Saturday night and had a wonderful spirit. We had great services Sunday night at the Altos do Coxipó (Tijucal) work. We have several lost adults and couples attending that new work. We are praying the Lord will touch their hearts.

There was a wedding at the Boa Esperanca Church this month. Nadir, the bride, was saved and baptized during our time in the church there in 1980. It makes one feel old to see youngsters grow up and start families. It is gratifying to see them continue to serve the Lord after all the years that have gone by.

The worker at the Novo Diamantino work has a serious health problem with

arthritis. I just talked to his doctor and he said he must be treated without fail if he is to avoid being crippled. He and his wife are doing a real good job there. Pray for him. His name is Jasson and hers is Raimunda. They have one little girl.

Do pray for Ursula also. She is having a lot of health problems right now. Her arthritis is acting up and the intense heat here is giving her serious allergy problems. During Michelle's two-week vacation we hope to spend some time at the Cahapada which is 65 miles away but 1/2 mile higher in elevation and about 10 to 15 degrees cooler. We have considered living there but are not able to now due to Michelle's school.

I heard from Bob Creiglow that the Thanksgiving Conference was great with good attendance and a great spirit. Praise the Lord for that. May the Lord richly bless all of you.

In Him,

Harold M. Draper



A Children's Class gets ready to sing at Codajas, Brazil.
Brother Harold Bratcher's work.

Get Papers on Jessie . . .**Be Home Soon on Furlough . . .****Last Minute Instructions . . .***by Bobby Wacaser*

(U.S.A. address)
4402 West Keysville Road
Plant City, FL 33567
Ph. 813-737-2362
January 4, 1994

Dear Friends:

Wow!! Did 1993 finish with a bang?! The day before Christmas Eve we received news that the judge gave sentence on Jessie's adoption in our favor. The first Monday after Christmas we received her birth certificate in our name and on the next day we already had her passport. Yesterday we got back from the American Consulate with her visa to the U.S. and today I reserved tickets to travel next week. Somebody told me that all the fireworks were to celebrate the entrance of the New Year, but I'm sure that someone must have spread the news about our new daughter!

Along with our excitement about the completion of this adoption and our

soon return home, comes a good deal of preoccupation (missionaries don't worry). We are especially concerned for our new workers and the increased responsibilities that they will face in our absence. Often we like to think of ourselves as indispensable. This last week I had meetings planned for almost every night in order to give some last minute details. Then I stopped and thought, "If I haven't taught them enough by now, and if they don't rely enough on God to carry on without me, then I've failed and a few more meetings aren't going to do the trick". My heart is very burdened for them though. I love my people and I pray that God will bless them and use them mightily.

If you are interested in a visit from us, note the above information.

Yours in Christ,

Bobby, Charlene & Jessie Wacaser



Appreciation for Thanksgiving Conference . . . Short Visit With Family . . . Pray for \$5,000 . . .

by John Hatcher

December 17, 1993

Dear Friends:

We arrived in the USA on the 16th of November in time to make it to the Thanksgiving Conference. Our sincere thanks to all the wonderful people at the Twelve Ryan and the New Hope Baptist churches and Pastors Lamb and Summers for the wonderful hospitality. Could not have been better. It was a joy to see many of our friends and brethren and we were encouraged by the positive spirit and wonderful messages.

During our stay in the States we visited only the Richland Baptist Church where brother Glenn Archer is the pastor. Our fellowship with the wonderful friends at this church was reassuring and an incentive to keep on keeping on. Many other pastors asked us to come and visit their churches, but the short time we were staying in the States made this an impossibility. The Lord willing, we will fly from Miami on the 29th of December.

Our thanks to those who have made our short visit so enjoyable. First, we

thank Peggy Foster for inviting us to stay with her. Peggy, Alta and I thank you for your kindness that you show in so many ways. We want to thank John Mark and his family for loaning us a car. With children in school, in college and working, it was a sacrifice and we appreciate it. And we thank Elton and Lynn for feeding and helping us in so many ways. It was really great to have both children and their families here in Evansville so we could be together some time during each day.

Our visit has been more than wonderful, but going back to Brazil is also a joy to look forward to, from where we will write our next letter.

We ask you to pray for the Lord to provide the \$5,000 we need by the last of January for payment on our newly purchased building in Cornello Procopio.

In Christ,
John and Alta Hatcher



"Divine Appointment" With David . . . Mom and Dad Visit . . . Work Doing Well . . .

by Sheridan Stanton

Calle Matisse 346
Urb. San Borja
Lima 41, Peru SA
Call direct 011-5114-35-4953
December 30, 1993

Dear Brethren:

Several weeks ago, Anita was shopping for groceries here in the capital city of Lima, Peru. As she was shopping, a young man who worked at the store asked her if she spoke English. Of course she replied "yes", and they struck up a conversation in English. His English was good, but limited, and he desired to have someone to practice with. Well, Anita and I really have more to do than to "practice English". However, she felt there was something special in this situation and invited him to our house so he could talk with the two of us. We started David in a Bible study (Basic Bible Truth, by Lester Hutson). After the third lesson, I asked David if he had come to the place in his spiritual life, that if he died, did he know for sure that he would go to heaven. He replied no. I continued to explain to him the gospel using the Evangelism Explosion presentation. To make a long story short, David trusted Christ as his Savior. He has now finished the lessons in the Bible study and has begun going to church with us. His name is David Zúñiga and he is 23 years old. Anita and I ask you to pray for him as he matures in the faith. He is an answer to our prayers, because now he is going to help us in the translation of Sunday School materials from English to Spanish.

Anita's meeting David at the store was a "divine appointment". In a city of over seven million people, the Lord caused their paths to cross. I wonder how many "divine appointments" we miss in the course of a week? All of us frequently have the opportunities to engage people in a friendly conversation about their spiritual well-being. Be aware of this and take advantage of

these opportunities. You never know when it will be a "divine appointment"!

I've always hear that "the older you get the wiser you get". Well, I turned 39 on the 11th of December, and to be honest, I really don't feel any wiser. The truth is, the older I get the more I realize how much I don't know. It's a humbling thought, one that keeps me more dependent on the Lord. The church celebrated my birthday with a big reunion after church on the 12th of December. We had a great time. It is a real joy to be associated with such a loving and caring people.

My Mom and Dad, Ralph and Virginia Stanton, came to Peru over the holidays for a visit. It had been over nine years since their last visit. We really enjoyed their visit. They stayed three weeks and we had the chance to show them the works out in the jungle town of Pucallpa as well as here in Lima. My Dad likes to sing for the Lord, and he sang several specials in the mission work here in Lima. The folks here fell in love with him and my Mom and begged them to come back again soon. Mom and Dad will be missed by all of us. It was a joy to have them with us.

The work here in Lima is doing well, although the attendance has slacked off a little in the month of December. I will write more next month about the works out in Pucallpa. Some very exciting changes are in the process at this time, and by next month I should be able to give a complete report.

Anita and I, and our teenagers, Leah and Joshua, love all of you and thank you for your prayers and support for us during this past year. A lot has been accomplished in the Lord's work here, and HE has used you to help make it happen. Until next month,

Serving Jesus in Peru,
Sheridan & Anita Stanton



From top left:
The Children's Choir at Codajas, Brazil. Bro. Harold Bratcher's Work.

The Baptizing is Over. Bro. Harold Bratcher's Work.

Getting ready to Baptize at Ventanilla. Bro. Crain's Work. Pastor,

Wife and Baby at Word of Life Baptist Church, Peru. Young pastor needs medicine for kidney problem.

Bro. Harold Bratcher with wife Marie and Stephen Bratcher's mother-in-law Dona Janete Gomez Nunes in front of 25 of December Baptist Church in Codajas, Brazil.

The girl on right and her brother next to her other brother was baptized the same day picture was taken. Note: The lake in Background. Ventanilla Work of Bro. Crain.



Preacher's meeting in front of new building, Refuge Baptist Church, Brazil. Brother Mike Creiglow's Work.

Young People Keep Coming . . . 3 Professions of Faith . . . Need \$3,000 to Get School Wing Functional . . .

by Paul Creiglow



Caixa Postal 24 69980
Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil
December 15, 1994

Dear Brethren:

For the last several months things have been pretty hectic here in Cruzeiro do Sul. The days seemed to fly by, then the weeks, then the months. Besides the everyday things that keep you so busy, here in Brazil we were constantly working on several things at once. Well, things have finally slowed down a little; partly by choice, and partly not.

Youth activities are still going great. We keep having more and more young people coming out on Saturday night, which always means more unsaved teens to hear the gospel. Even though we are in the rainy season we are having good crowds; last week we had 40 young people come out in a pouring rain, and 90% of them have to walk to church. We had 3 more young people

make professions of faith this month and several others request baptism. The Lord is truly blessing our youth group.

Construction at the school has stopped due to a lack of funds. We were able to get all the walls up and the forms set for the concrete beam on top, then the money ran out. We still need to purchase the materials for the concrete beam on top of the walls, plastering the walls, the doors, the trusses, the roofing and the sub-floor. We have estimated it will take approximately \$3,000 to get this wing functional by the start of the school year in February. Please pray for this project and, if the Lord so leads, help us get this wing finished. The school needs these new classrooms if it is to continue to grow.

In Christ,
Paul Creiglow

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Vice-President - Jim Orrick
1-614-532-8747
Treasurer - Glenn Archer
1-502-278-2493
Secretary - Edward H. Overbey
1-606-277-4947

Marie Bratchber visits sick in Manaus, Brazil. This sister is Asa's wife's grandmother.