



The Messenger

Duplicating Disciples

“Thank you for telling me this.” – This was the response of an Amazonian man after hearing the gospel for the first time. It was AVM board chairman, Jeff Scott, who witnessed to this man and of the encounter Scott said, “I had never witnessed to someone who was more receptive to the gospel.” It was that encounter that flipped a switch in Jeff and ignited his passion for missions in the Amazon. Over time, stories like this have proven not to be the exception but the rule as AVM has

seen thousands come to Christ in the ripe harvest field that is the Western Amazon River Basin of Brazil. However, conversion is only the beginning of a relationship with Christ. Jesus commanded us not to make conversions but make disciples. That means taking steps to ensure that once a person becomes a believer they are equipped with the resources they need to continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord and ultimately share their faith with others. Jeff states, “We

want to make disciples who make disciples.” With this goal in mind AVM has narrowed the focus of their trips by spending more time in each community they visit. During this time we are looking to identify potential leaders and opportunities to start a new church plant or supporting an existing Baptist church. To help support these new believers AVM provides some basic discipleship material. This provides the crucial foundation for a strong relationship with Christ that

“We want to make disciples who make disciples”

begs to be shared. By ministering to the people we have access to, we hope to encourage them to reach other groups that we may not even be aware of with the gospel of Christ.

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A Long Distance Relationship

A lot goes in to ministering abroad. One of the best tactics for reaching people in a cross-cultural environment is building relationships. One way

AVM seeks to do this is by allowing churches the opportunity to adopt a community on the river. By adopting a community a church is making a

commitment to them. They are committing to pray for that community daily and to make trips 1-2 times a year over a period of 3-5 years. The goal of

this program is to leverage our blessings in the country to help meet the needs of those who God has placed in our path.

Coming Together for God's Purpose



Preparation is one of the most important aspects of any undertaking. No one knows that better than Derek George as he faces the task of preparing his team for their upcoming AVM trip. The difference for Derek's team from a normal

team is that not only do they come from different churches, but also different cities, and different states. In fact, the team is spread across Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. The team members spent several weeks in prayer and consideration and was only finalized after the addition of Derek's own aunt; a godly woman still committed to serving the Lord at "87 years young." With all the members in place the team has begun preparing the logistic for their trip. Part of their

preparations includes training with their main evangelism tool the Evangecube. This is a vital step since evangelism is top priority on the trip. In addition to evangelism the team will be performing medical ministry by supplying people with important medications as well as reading glasses in a wide variety of strengths. With all these factors weighing in, preparation has been a challenge for this team but it is one they have risen to through reliance on God and faith that He will pro-

God Prepares the Team

A common theme in Christianity is "Our ways are not his ways." One way to experience this first hand is to lead a mission's team. Often time's things do not go at all the way one plans but somehow everything works out for God's glory. Team leader Larry Creamer experienced this as he faced considerable challenges assembling his team this year even to the point of considering postponing the trip. As the deadline drew near Larry called out to God asking for his guidance. The Lord im-

Often time's things do not go at all the way one plans but somehow everything works out for God's glory.

pressed on him to go back and read Luke 10:2. It states, ²Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Luke 10:2 (NKJV). This was God's word to him that He would provide the people for the team. Larry made a call to a close friend inviting him to join the trip and three days later

the team roster was finalized and the final plane tickets purchased. A couple days later when checking on the flight info, Larry noticed that the least expensive ticket for that particular flight had jumped to over double what he had paid two day earlier. God had provided the team before the tickets were out of their price range. While he may not always work in our time-frame, we can rest assured that as long as we toil in the work of the Lord he will provide all that we need.

A Story from the River

Sarah Pacheco, AVM translator, shares a touching personal experience

What I like most about missions is that every day, every person, every house, everything is different. One morning I walked into a small jon boat with three Americans. One of them began to talk to me about Jesus, about the Ark, the blood sacrifice that took place. Our conversation grew so pleasant to hear that I forgot that I was the only one who spoke Portuguese / English and who was leading the jon boat to where we should stop. When I came to realize that after almost a hours later going down the river, the driver was coming back because we had nowhere else to go to and I was embarrassed. But then the American looked at me and said: "Sarah, where your heart beat faster, request him to stop." Then we were on the way back, and when we saw a small house isolated by the water. We decided to stop and talk to people. There were 3 children, a baby and a lady in the house. The lady was very faithful to God, went to church, believed in the

Bible, but her husband was fishing and she wanted him to know more about Jesus, because he had been away from the church for things that had happened in his life. She asked us to come back later. However, that was not even necessary because, as God provides ALL things, after his wife had just told us the story, the husband arrived. We were there for over two hours in that little house in the middle of the river sharing about the Bible. We were able to use the cube, and sitting on that floor I could see God working in those people's lives, changing the life of that gentleman, through every tear that he shed sharing his story and accepting Jesus as his savior. My heart was glad to have forgotten to tell the boat driver to stop that little boat. God does things which we have no idea of, he leaves us blind and give us the vision at the right

time. And if each one could give in and allowed God's love to guide them, with all certainly that would help to bring the word of God further and further because God's love is so great and wonderful that makes us want to share. "

AVAILABLE TRIP DATES FOR 2011

- 19 - 31 March
- 28 March - 6 April
- 7 - 16 April
- 18 - 27 April
- 28 April - 7 May
- 9 - 18 May
- 9 - 18 June
- 1 - 10 August
- 11 - 20 August
- 22 -31 August
- 12 -21 September
- 22 September - 1 October
- 3 - 12 October
- 13 - 22 October
- 24 October - 2 November
- 3 - 12 November
- 14 - 23 November
- 24 November - 3 December
- 5 - 14 December
- 15 - 24 December



Parting Thoughts . . .

Another year of ministry is upon us and what a wonderful time it is. As I write this, our first team of the season is ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of the people in Manaquiri. Another team is finishing their preparations and will be on the river March 9th. Jesus said in Matthew 9:12, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." Then in the next verse He tells us, ". . . I desire compassion, and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." I am grateful for teams that have a compassion for the people in the West Amazon Basin of Brazil; those who live in poverty by our standards and who do not know the name of Jesus. For the last eight years AVM has worked with people who are physically and spiritually sick. Are you compassionate about reaching people who live in remote and isolated areas that are spiritually sick? There are over 35,000 communities along the river and thousands who live in those communities who have never heard the Gospel. With the economic struggles in the US over the last few years we have seen a decrease in the number of short-term volunteer teams that are partnering with us. AVM is committed to the work God has started in the West Amazon Basin. As a result, our board of directors has increased our focus on God and through prayer has sought His direction. It is clear that we are to continue reaching the lost and unreached people of the West Amazon Basin. In fact, with the decline in the number of IMB missionaries in Brazil we are pursuing a strategic partnership with the IMB. Through this partnership we will have the responsibility of reaching all unreached peoples in the West Amazon Basin spanning from Manaus and going west toward Peru. This is a large undertaking but we have a strategy in place to effectively disciple these people and begin several new works along the river. We are asking you to prayerfully consider joining us in partnership to reach these who are lost and going to hell without the knowledge of Jesus Christ and who live in areas of complete isolation. Will you join us first and foremost in prayer asking God how He might use you? Second, will you pray and ask God if you are to give sacrificially to AVM? Third, will you pray and ask God if you are to coordinate and lead a team?

Our mission and vision has not changed and our passion to reach the lost in the Amazon Basin continues to burn stronger than ever. We need your help. We pray that you will allow God to use you to join us in reaching the lost in Brazil.

God Bless,



PARTNERING WITH US

Finish New Boat \$775,000
Complete our boat currently under construction.

Brazil Operations \$10,000
Cover operational expenses for one month

US Operations \$4,500
Cover operational expenses for one month

I-Dent \$2,995
Complete dental operatory. Chair, drill, battery pack, and solar panel.

Scholarship \$2,700
Covers the expenses for one team member's trip.

I-See Vision Kit \$2,100
Complete vision kit with 400 glasses and

all supplies to meet the need for corrective lenses for both near and far-sightedness

Medications \$2,000
Provide enough medication for a 9-day medical team.

Megavoice \$25
Digital player that will provide a community with the ability to hear God's Word.

Contributions made payable to:

**Amazon Vision Ministries
P.O. Box 408
Graceville, FL 32440**



*"Bringing the hope of Christ to
the Western Amazon basin"*


P.O. Box 408
Graceville, Florida
Phone: (850) 263-4262
Fax: (866) 611-0613
E-mail: Charles@AVMBrazil.com



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Reaching those who have never heard
the Gospel of Jesus Christ!!

It's all about Him!! "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." (Mt. 28:19-20)