

SHRIFT UPDATE

Summer 2015

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"

(II Timothy 2:2 KJV)

Greetings to All,

The Brazilian mission board that we have worked under these past 25 years, MEVA (Evangelical Mission of the Amazon), has its roots in the evangelism of this region's Amerindians in the 1940's. Through many linguistic, cultural, and physical challenges, this pioneering work established fruitful ministries among some of the most primitive people groups in our Western hemisphere. One group however, the Macushis, were a semi-acculturated tribe spread across the borders of three countries. They had had more exposure and contact with their respective national cultures than the mostly inaccessible jungle tribes. Although familiar with Christianity- a few of them even practiced a very syncretistic form- they had little knowledge of a Christ-centered gospel.

This changed in the 1960's, when one of MEVA's members, Pr. João Batista da Costa, began a dedicated effort to reach out to them. The Lord greatly blessed this undertaking and it continues to bear fruit to this day. Now in his 80's, Pr. João Batista, or "JB" as we call him, has published an autobiographical book (in Portuguese) titled "Recollections of a Missionary Among the Macushis". In our last newsletter, we profiled Waldemar, one of the first to be touched by this effort.

In April, as part of his work recording Macushi language Bible studies and music, Eric traveled with both of these men and their spouses to a recently formed village where the church leader, Altevir, as a young boy, dedicated his life to the Lord during one of Waldemar's evangelistic trips. The encounter of these three faithful men for the first time was a vivid manifestation of the scripture cited above.



Altevir & Marlucia --- Waldemar & Josefa --- Pr. João Batista & Edilene

These days, as we are often flooded with saddening personal and world affairs, what a comfort it is to know that the Lord continues to build His church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support, which are vital materials in this building process.

May He Richly Bless You,

Eric & Donna