

Mission Report from the Students of CETRAM, (MESEF's Training Center)

After CETRAM's first semester (March – July), the students had a three-week break. Below is a report of the students who went back to their respective communities:

1. Maruranau – a Wapishana village, located 100 miles south of Lethem

Atkinson Henrico, a Macushi, and Hewlette David, a Wapishana, left Lethem on their long journey to visit David's home, Maruranau, a Wapishana village of more than 300 people. The journey from Lethem to Maruranau is a two-day trip on a bush truck - if all goes well. They arranged for a ride on a bush truck, working as porters to pay for their passage. Almost nine hours out from the village the truck broke down. No one knew how long it would take to get it repaired, so the students decided to continue their journey on the bicycles they had brought with them for back-up transportation. When nightfall came they still had not reached the village, so they decided to spend the night high up in a tree for fear of jaguars. The next morning as they were getting ready to eat the last meal they saved from the previous day, they discovered that the roasted chicken was missing. While they were asleep a fox had torn apart their luggage and stolen the chicken. With nothing else to eat, frustrated and hungry, they started on their final leg to their destination. They finally arrived safely to the village after 14 hours of riding their bicycles. David's parents and the rest of the family members welcomed them. That night they ate their fill and said that they "slept like dead men." The next morning David shared his testimony to his family. Knowing David's past well, his family was amazed at the transformation that Jesus had done in his life. They both began to visit the homes of the villagers and tell them the stories of Jesus.

Persecution broke out and their lives were at stake. A leader of high influence issued a statement forbidding David and Atkinson to speak to anyone about Jesus. The two students then decided that rather than face the fury of the local leaders and risk their lives, it was better for them to work undercover. They then resorted to working as helpers at the farms for different villagers. While working at the farm they continued to tell the stories of Jesus. One soul was saved and one person was healed. Many others wanted to commit their lives to Jesus but because they were afraid of being damned to hell by the leaders of a local religious group, they stayed quiet. After 10 days, more than a 100 people had heard the stories of Jesus. David and Atkinson prayed and committed the villagers to Jesus and started their long journey back to Lethem to meet with the rest of the team in preparation to return to CETRAM.



David & Atkinson

2. Moco - Moco – a Macushi village, located 20 miles south of Lethem, Guyana

Alex Santos, a Macushi originally from the village of Moco-Moco, and Rebeck Shu Shu, a Wai-Wai from the village of Konashen, went to Moco Moco with plans to share the Gospel stories of Jesus with the people of the village. Arriving there, they were welcomed with joy and open arms by the chief of the village. During their 10 days there, they prayed and fasted. In the cool of the afternoon and evenings, they visited every home in the village and shared the stories of Jesus. They also conducted an open-air crusade. At the end of their time, a total of 24 committed their lives to Christ. Many were baptized and some notable healings also took place. Two of the new converts are now students at CETRAM. As an explanation to their early arrival at CETRAM they said, “We don’t want to wait until next February; we want to study immediately.” The Lord worked through Alex and Rebeck and provided for all their basic needs. Some of the new converts invited them to their homes for meals and fellowship.



Alex & Rebeck

3. Nappi – a Macushi village, 26 miles north of Lethem

Pamela Fredericks, a Macushi, returned to her home in Nappi village. Knowing her past well, her parents were happy to see the tremendous changes that Jesus had done in her life. She shared the stories of Jesus with several homes in the village. Many loved the stories and wanted to follow Jesus, but expressed their fears of being damned, criticized, and ill-treated by other villagers and especially the leadership of a local religious group. When Pam attended a service at the church in the village she was asked. “Where is your head covering?” Since she didn’t have a head covering, she was rejected and treated badly. A week later Alan Winter of Frontline Missions, brought a team from Manna Church in Fayetteville, NC, United States. Upon their arrival in the village, Pamela was at the forefront trying to arrange meetings, lodging and meals. She prayed for one family for healing and salvation. One of her brothers and one of her sisters committed their lives to Jesus. Other activities that she was involved in ranged from giving out Bibles, telling stories to children, helping her grandfather gather leaves to cover his bathroom, grating cassava to make bread, and inviting friends to study at CETRAM. God provided for her material needs while she was gone and she felt really blessed to finally be able to return to CETRAM.



Pamela Fredericks

4. Parishara – a Macushi village, 30 miles north of Lethem

Peter Buckley, a Macushi, and Johanson Alfred, also a Macushi, went back to their home village of Parishara, located approximately four miles away from Nappi village. They shared the stories of Jesus with several households in their village and invited them to church services that they hosted in the local school. Both of them, along with Pamela, openly testified about the transforming power of Jesus in their lives. Many people were amazed by their courage and their testimonies. They prayed for several people. One man that they prayed for had injured his back and was bed-ridden for two weeks. He was in such extreme pain that he couldn't get up to use the bathroom. His wife asked the students to come and pray for him and Jesus healed him! The following day he rode his bike to the farm and worked all day pain-free. The leader of this village asked them to return to help win the village for Christ. In all, seven people accepted Christ, one was healed, and three were restored to the faith. The students also visited many families, told Bible stories, worked at the farm, finished the work on the family house, and received great encouragement from their parents who were very proud of them and continually reminded them of the many changes they saw in their lives.



Peter & Johanson

5. Parabara - a Wai Wai Village, 200 miles south of Lethem

Terence James, a Macushi, and Manasseh Manaka, a Wai Wai, started their journey to Manasseh's home village, Parabara. Their journey took them five days from Lethem. They hitched a ride on a truck that was going to a village called Dadanawa – a ranch 100 miles away from the village. From there they caught a ride on a tractor to their destination. During their journey they saw many wild animals and birds. For days they were hungry. They slept in the open plains and on river banks filled with dangerous alligators. After their arrival, they began to share the stories of Jesus with many of the villagers. Terence went to the gold mining area located four miles away from the village to share the Gospel of Christ with the miners, who are from the village of Parbara and surrounding villages. He discovered that many of the young people are hooked on drugs, alcohol, and prostitution. After seven days in the villages, five people committed their lives to Jesus, 25 people were restored to the faith, and five people were healed. Manasseh shared his testimony of Jesus' transforming power with his parents, family, and friends. They were very happy and shocked to see the changes of his life. His father said to him, "My son, who was lost and doing wrong things, is now found and is doing good works." When their time was up, they returned to Brazil and were very happy and ready to continue their studies at CETRAM.



Terence & Manasseh

6. Vizeu - a Macushi village in Roraima, Brazil

Marcos Barbosa, a Macushi, went to his home village called Vizeu. His parents were overjoyed to see the work Jesus had done in his life. For them it was like having a “new son.” He conducted several church services at his home and then at his uncle’s home. People came in multitudes to hear his testimony and the stories of Jesus. Many others wanted to hear more about the stories from the Word of God. He prayed for a young boy who was sick and he was healed instantly. Many repented and came to know Jesus. He was offered a job but he turned it down because he saw it as a distraction from what God is calling him to do and his training at CETRAM. He is now back at CETRAM and is excited about the challenges ahead.



Marcos

7. Bananeira - a Macushi village in Roraima, Brazil

Cleide Joaquim Bento and Israel Bento, both Macushi, went to the home village of Bananeira, located deep in the valley of a high mountain range close to the border of Guyana. They boarded a bush bus from the city of Boa Vista and traveled for seven hours. From there they traveled on foot between mountains, jungles, dangerous slippery cliffs, crossing swift currents of overflowing creeks before they finally reached their village. Cleide shared the Gospel in her village and invited people to come to the services that were conducted. She stated that there was a need for someone to teach the people about the Word of God. Her testimony inspired many people to serve Jesus. She openly asked for forgiveness from the people who she had offended and for her past sins of her “old life.” By doing this she caught the attention of the people and they were amazed.



Cleide & Israel

8. Normandia – a Macushi village in Roraima Brazil

Adilio Lima Da Silva, a Macushi, is from the village of Normandia. He went home to share the stories of Jesus with his family. His entire family committed their lives to Jesus. The rest of his time was spent working on the family farm and planting vegetables and cassava, which they will reap when he is back at CETRAM. He is the father of two children.



Adilio

9. Serra Do Sol – An Ingarico Village in Roraima, Brazil

Martinilza Barbosa and Roseane both Ingarico, went to their home village of Serra Do Sol, located high up in the mountain range of Mount Roraima on the border of Venezuela and Guyana. They took a bush bus from the city of Boa Vista to the village of Agua Fria – an eight-hour journey to the end of the road. From there they continued their journey on foot between mountains, hills and deep valleys for another three days to reach their destination. There they shared the Gospel stories of Jesus with their people. People were excited to hear the stories. They prayed for many and eight people came to know Christ. While they were at Serra da Sol, they ministered with the approval of Pastor Marcos, one of our Ingarico leaders who has more than 40 churches under his covering. On their return trip to CETRAM, Roseane visited the Indian Hospital where she prayed for several sick people. One woman was saved and another was healed. Both students are back at CETRAM and are very excited to work for Jesus.



Martinilza & Roseane

10. Morro - a Macushi village in Roraima, Brazil

Romario, his sister Onita, and their niece, Marcilene, all Macushi, went to Morro, their native village located high up the mountains of Brazil. Their families were shocked and surprised to see the great changes that Jesus had done in their lives. They went home knowing the threats of several religious leaders if they should tell people about Jesus. They secretly told the stories of Jesus to their families and friends. Five people were saved. News of their work soon began to be known by the leaders. They were warned not to speak to anyone about Jesus any further. Some of their friends didn't want to speak to them any longer because of their decision to follow Christ. They are now back at CETRAM, happy and excited that they could suffer for Jesus.



Onita, Marcilene & Romario

11. Canavial – a Macushi village in Roraima, Brazil

Elizangela da Silva Jeronimo, a Macushi, also went to the village of Canavial. She spent the majority of her time with her family. She stayed home most of the time because she was criticized by her friends for being a follower of Jesus. Her friends were calling her names, so much so that she was afraid to go outdoors. However two of her family members gave their lives to Jesus. During the day she spent her time at the farm and at night she would tell the stories of Jesus to other members of her family. She is now back at CETRAM, fully encouraged by her parents to continue.



Elizangela

12. *Canavial - a Macushi village in Roraima, Brazil*

Aginaldo Andrade and Hernane Lima Da Silva, both Macushi, are from the village of Canavial. During their visit home, they conducted several services and invited all the villagers to attend. The first service had 20 people and each meeting after was filled with people – children, youth, and senior adults. They all came to hear the stories of Jesus and the great dynamic preaching of repentance and salvation from Hernane. Many began to cry loudly upon hearing the message, pleading with God for forgiveness. The presence of God came upon the people and they were crying loudly in repentance everywhere. Hernane and Aginaldo prayed for the people. Many came to Jesus as a result of the preaching. Hernane and Aginaldo were criticized by others, who claimed that Satan was manifesting himself in them and that they were liars.

The chief of this village was impressed to see the changes in these two students. He stated that he felt secure and motivated by their message and their presence. The chief asked them to speak at a village meeting where they testified about what Jesus had done and was doing in their lives. They prayed for the people there. The students were encouraged by the chief and a pastor who also lives in the village to continue with their studies. These two students were encouraged and motivated by the chief's support.



Aginaldo & Hernane

Problems:

The main problems that most of the students encountered during their holidays are the following:

1. Discouragements from close friends and family members
2. Criticism
3. Persecution from the religious leaders and members of their church
4. Not having answers to questions that they never thought about

Request:

All of us at CETRAM are happy for the return of all the students and to hear of how God has used them to reach their own people. We want to thank all of you for your partnership, prayers and support in investing in the lives of all the students at CETRAM. These stories are a sign of the great works yet to be done by the students for the tribal people of Guyana and Brazil.

Blessings and thanks for your investment in the Kingdom of God in this part of the world.

Staff and students of CETRAM