



JIM & RHONDA SHAW



YOUR MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL

Serving with Baptist Mid-Missions
Address: P.O. Box 308011
Cleveland, OH 44130-8011
Phone: 440-826-3930

WINTER 2020/2021

UPDATE SINCE LAST LETTER...

The last time we wrote to you was from the States. We come to you now from Santarem, Para, Brazil. Yes, we finally got passages back and were planning to spend a few days in Manaus before heading down river to Santarem. We made the trip from North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida, spent a few days there, and Jim preached at the Victory Baptist Church on our last Sunday in the States. We boarded the plane in Orlando, headed to Sao Paulo, and during the night Rhonda began to be sick. By the time we reached Sao Paulo, she was really feeling rough, but just thought it was from the flight. We made our connection and flew on to Manaus, where we stayed a couple of days with friends there. Rhonda spent most of the time there isolated to the guest room, and by Thursday afternoon felt she needed to be tested for COVID-19. Both of us were tested and both came back negative. However, Rhonda was sure that is what she had, so she had a CAT scan done of her lungs and they were already 25% affected by the COVID-19 pneumonia. We immediately left our friends home and were offered the missionary home of the Dom Pedro Baptist Church where our friends are members. This was such a blessing to be able to isolate from everyone and be treated by good doctors in Manaus. Eventually Jim became ill as well, but with much lighter symptoms. Finally, after 28 days, we were cleared to continue our trip on to Santarem. We arrived here on October 22, but then stayed isolated for another 2 weeks before getting back into action.

COVID-19 IN SANTAREM...

Things were stable in Santarem. The city government and medical personnel did a great job of treating folks. There are many skeptics who refused to comply with the regulations, and because of that there has been an increase of cases and deaths since the new year. Our churches all began having services on a limited basis and we have been trying to help encourage them in such uncertain and disheartening times. Many of our folks have gotten COVID-19, but as yet we have not had anyone in our 4 churches pass away from the virus. Many still stay away from services and so the attendance is low in all our churches. We still exercise much caution at home, in public, and at church.

RECENT EVENTS...

Jim preached the 17th Anniversary Conference at Maranata Baptist Church. The theme was: How to Be Strong in the Grace of the Lord.

Rhonda also began practices for the Christmas program. The Bella Vista Baptist Church played the hand chimes and both Bella Vista and Peniel participated in the program. It was good to see visitors in the service.

RECENT EVENTS...



CONTACT US:

Address: Rua Marechal Rondon #3195, Bairro Caranazal, 68040-328 Santarem, Para, Brasil * Phone: 55-93-99166-1801

Phone #2: 55-93-99140-1802 * Email: jimrhon73@yahoo.com * Skype: brasilnme

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RECENT EVENTS CONTINUED...

Jim was invited to preach in the 60th Christmas Conference of the Macuxi Indian Churches in Contao, Roraima, near the Venezuelan border. The conference began on December 21 and ran until the evening service on Dec.25. There were over 600 Indians from 7 churches attending the conference. Jim preached the morning services and Pastor Wellington from Manaus preached in the evenings. The music and messages were edifying and each service was God honoring! The last service was held by use of flashlights on cell phones as the power went off just as the service was beginning. (used to be candlelight!) Finally, a generator was cranked up and we were able to use the lights and sound system to finish up the service. It was difficult to leave those people and we ask that you lift them up to God in prayer. We made the 3 ½ hour arduous car trip back to Boa Vista in the rain and made our flight back to Manaus. We spent part of the day with our friend who helped us through our COVID-19 crisis and then arrived back in Santarem on Sunday afternoon just in time to preach the afternoon service at Peniel and the evening service at Bela Vista.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

We are praying and planning now for youth camp in February. We aren't able to use the facilities that we have used in the past, but have worked on a plan B to use the property of one of our men at the Maranata Church. Please pray that camp will be a meaningful experience for all and that our youth will become heroes of the faith!

SIGNING OFF...

We are grateful to God for His abundant grace and the privilege of serving Him and you here in the Amazon. Thank you each for your faithfulness to give and pray for us. Thank you as well for serving Him where you are! We do not know what the "near" future holds for any of us, but we know God holds all the present and the future in His hand. You can't get any more sure and secure than that! Pray as we plan this new year 2021 and expect great things for God. We pray for you always and love you with all our hearts. May God still do the unusual and unexpected in and through you, for His glory and the Gospel's. Thank you for laboring with us these many decades to bring and keep His Light in the Amazon!

IN HIM,

Jim & Rhonda Shaw

Philippians 3:10-14



BRASIL



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