

AUG / SEPT 2019

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

2019 Brazil Mission Trip

10 Toledo First Members Journey up the Amazon River

On July 13th, eight teenagers and two adults from Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church made their way to Manaus, Brazil and then to some unknown location along the Amazon River. We arrived knowing that we were doing mission work for the non-government organization ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), but we did not know exactly what that



“work” entailed. All of us had different ideas, but nothing was set in stone until we arrived at the village. No amount of prior knowledge or information could have prepared us for the unique, special opportunity that we experienced during that week.



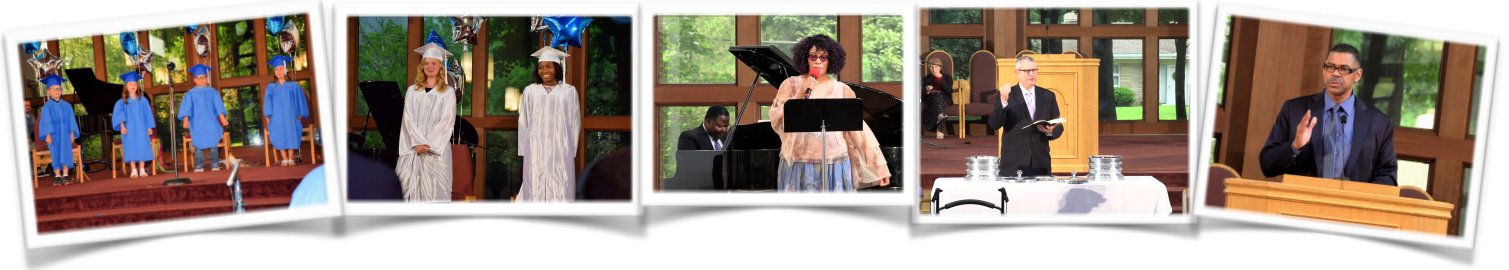
After we loaded all of our luggage and supplies onto the *Luzeiro XXX*, we hung our hammocks and mosquito nets. We nestled in these during the night and during the hour long siesta everyday after lunch. However comfortable it may seem, there were thirteen people sleeping in hammocks on the top deck, which did not leave a lot of room in between bodies. Nevertheless, we quickly got used to each others’ odd sleeping behavior. The space around the hammocks was filled with everyone’s suitcases, towels, and bags. Overall, our living area was small compared to what each of us have in the US,

(continued on page 3, column 1)

“You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 370

Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church
4909 West Sylvania Avenue
Toledo OH 43623
Address Service Requested



June & July at Toledo First

In photo 1, four TJA Kindergarten graduates, including Toledo First members Callie Hood and Gabe Landeros, excitedly await for their diplomas. Photo 2 shows this year's two 8th grade graduates from Toledo Junior Academy. Megan Cross blesses the congregation with a solo during the service, accompanied by Gary. (photo 3).

June 15 we celebrated a quarterly communion service to remind us to serve God and each other. (photo 4) The 5th picture shows Morlon Harris sharing a message with Toledo First in early July. *(Thanks to Shawn Flack and all the photographers for contributing photos.) ##*

Calendar of Events	AUG 10	AUG 14	AUG 24	SEPT 8	SEPT 24
	SEPT 14	School starts @ TJA	SEPT 28	Scrap-booking, 10am-8pm	Church Business Meeting
	Fellowship Potlucks		Vegan Challenge Potluck		

Church Float Day is AUG 18, 2-7 PM

Dave and Sheila Case would like to invite you once again to their beautiful pond in Delta, OH. Bring your family, bring some friends, bring your chairs, blankets, and water toys, and come relax in the sun or the shade. Enjoy swimming and floating, or just sit and talk with friends!



Lunch will be a potluck, so bring your favorite picnic dishes to share as well as something to drink. A grill will also be available if you would like to make use of it. Come share a relaxing afternoon with friends! ##

Next Business Meeting is SEP 24

Plan now to attend the upcoming church business meeting on Tuesday, SEP 24, at 7pm. The meeting will finish by 8:30pm at the latest. Your input and vote is needed! ##

Get Inspired! Scrapbooking is SEP 8

Brenda Szana, a 'Close To My Heart' Independent Consultant, will once



again be available to help you get your pictures and other projects jump started. Maybe you just need the impetus to finish a project. This could be it!

Bring your photos to the fellowship hall on SEP 8, from 10am - 8pm. The Registration Fee is \$25 which includes table space, lunch & dinner, snacks, goodie bag, and free Make & Take. ##

Spanish Church Friendship Dinner

In addition to the Vegan Challenge Potluck on September 28, the Spanish Church would like to thank Toledo First by providing a large assortment of delicious hispanic food for you to enjoy as well. Come and get to know each other better and enjoy a special treat! This date is also "Education Sabbath" so plan to come and see what's going on at TJA this year and see the kids participate in the service. ##





Sunset on the Amazon River our first night out on the boat.

but it was all we needed to do our mission work. The covered part of the deck held all of our hammocks and luggage, but there was

a large portion near the stern that was open. Thus, there were many nights that we just stargazed, sang, or played games in the light of the bright night sky.

At the village we docked at, our purpose was to connect with the community members by providing



This is the small village where we worked. Some of the homes were on stilts over the water, as was the Adventist Church.

different households with some basic needs and showing the love and care of Christ. A huge part of the mission was to just provide for the community without requiring them to attend church or get baptized.

The three projects that our group was involved in

consisted of painting two houses and updating the church there. It didn't seem like



This is one of the two homes we painted in the village. The homes were chosen via a lottery before we came.

such a huge thing to us, but the work we did painting houses had a very large impact for the community. The people that we helped had so little that they were grateful for the smallest amount of aid.



Josh, Lydia, and Netania with some of the local kids painting the church. The homemade scaffolding was made by 'whittling' the ends of 5" logs so that they were 'spear' like and then ramming them into the mud.

The most fun aspect of working in the village was interacting daily with the children. On the very first day,



Cassandra playing with two of the smaller kids on Sabbath afternoon.

there were a couple of kids who jumped in to help us paint or do construction. By the end of the week, kids were fighting over whose turn it was to paint. The language gap between us was barely a problem because it was so easy to just play with them and make them smile. Every child we met was so content

with what little material things they had, too. Some would play with scrap pieces of wood and others played soccer with a small bag of trash. It must have made them excited to have a change of activities when we let them paint with us because it was different than their daily routine. By the end of the week, almost every child that we interacted with came to church on Sabbath.



Lydia playing with "Glacielli."

The Focal Point

Our week on the Amazon would not have gone as smoothly and enjoyable as it did without the wonderful staff we had.

There were two translators, Celly and Elana, that helped us understand our instructions, the local culture, and communicate with the children of the village.

The captain of our boat, Bruno, and his wife, Amazonian River natives, took us to multiple farms along the river and one day even took us to their house to swim. Bruno helped us build



Our boat captain, Bruno, with his wife, Regilane, who was our cook for the week.



Swimming in the Amazon on Friday afternoon. The captain, Bruno, took us on an unplanned trip to his home to let us swim in a cleaner area of the river. He also took us on 'fastboat' rides to see the area.

church pews and a new staircase for the church with his machete while his wife fed us all week as the head chef. As representatives of ADRA in the village, Paolo and Lea organized all of our tasks during the week and provided us the supplies we needed to paint and construct the pews and stairs.

Lastly, there was Adam from ADRA Connections, who made sure we were getting the most out of our experience. On the days we were all tired,

Adam pumped us up and inspired us to work diligently. We appreciate the prayers, thoughts, and donations church members gave us before and during this adventure. Cassandra Leibengood ##



Adam Wamack, our ADRA Connections team member, using his knife to smooth out the rough spots. Juan looks skeptical!

Additional Mission Trip Pictures



On the left, Isaac paints the church inside.

On the right, Esmeralda gives one of the kids a drink of water from her water bottle. The kids seemed to think it very strange that we Americans carried water around with us all day!



Above: Netania shows off her tribal facepaint.



On the right: Miguel posing with Aaron.



On the left: Ava with one of the tiniest residents that we saw.

Emma and Netania work hard on the first house to be painted. It was our first experience with extremely watered down paint that doesn't want to stay on the brush!

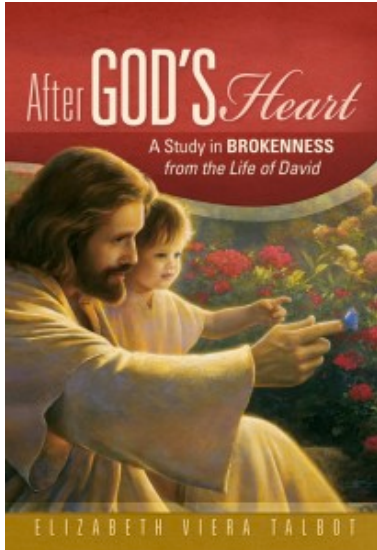


Swimming with the dolphins on our excursion day. We weren't allowed to touch them, but they could move about as will so they would swim between our legs, or run into us as they were swimming by.

The Focal Point

“SOUP” FOR YOU RESUMES SEPT 18

For our fall midweek series we will be studying Elizabeth Talbot's book *After God's Heart: A Study in Brokenness from the Life of David*. Speaking of David, God says he was a “Man after my own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). But how is that possible after David lied and committed adultery and killed and even near the end of his life arranged to kill people (1 Kings 2:5-6)? Through this book we will get to know David a bit more and through his life, help us see ourselves the way God sees us too. We will also see how parts of David's life foreshadowed the Davidic King (Jesus) who would later lay down his life for his sheep. Each of us, despite our obvious flaws and brokenness, can come closer to God. Is that your desire? Copies of the book are available for \$5 in the church office while supplies last. Would make a great Six Week Group too. Pastor Mike ##

**This Year's Graduates Honored**

This year we only had 6 graduates whom we honored at potluck on June 22. We are so proud of them and all they accomplished and we wish them well as they continue on to whatever is next for each of them!



Callie Hood (not pictured) graduated from Kindergarten at Toledo Junior Academy. She will be continuing at TJA this fall.



Gabe Landeros graduated from Kindergarten at Toledo Junior Academy. He is also continuing at TJA.

Emma Landeros graduated from 8th grade. She will be continuing to homeschool in the fall for 9th grade.

Cassidy Cross (not pictured) graduated from Bowsher High School and will be working on a nursing degree this fall from Terra State Community College.

Abigail Wright (not pictured) graduated from Rogers High School. She hasn't decided yet what her future plans will be.

Sara Austin (not pictured) graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Rhetoric and Writing. She is moving to Orlando, FL and will be working for AdventHealth. ##

Toledo Junior Academy Begins New School Year

Toledo Junior Academy has been abuzz with activity as we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year, which will begin on August 14th. The freshly painted hallways will soon be filled with students,



both new and returning, as they begin what we pray will be their best year yet. We are kicking off the school year with an “Ice Cream Social” and clothing swap on August 11th and a Family Information Night on August 15th. Please be on the lookout for information about how you can be an active participant in our TJA students' lives by “adopting” a student to pray for throughout the school year, helping students learn vital communication skills through a church/school pen-pal program, and helping with Bible labs both at the school and in the community. We want to wrap our students in support and the love of Jesus, and it is your partnership in this mission that will see our vision to fruition. We thank you for considering these ways to get involved! Natalie Hood ##

AUG & SEPT 2019 CALENDAR

Birthdays

- August 2 Marcene Marsa
- August 6 Joshua Fortune
Caleb Rieger
- August 7 Laura Frey
Alex Jessop
- August 9 Flynn Choti (Moses)
- August 10 Nolan Hood
- August 11 Deb Bening
Kay Kermodé
- August 14 Lanetta Cross
Kim Stanley
- August 15 Gail Flack
- August 17 Teresa Moses
- August 19 Chad Rieger
- August 21 Ron Szczechowski
- August 24 Mary Snowberger
- August 26 Becky Godie
Laura Williams
- August 27 Mary Ann Osinski
Cody Rieger
- August 31 Cole St. Clair



Birthdays

- Sept 2 Shirley Smith
- Sept 4 Nicole Rieger
- Sept 6 Pastor Mike
Claire Jakubowski
Joyce Jenkins
- Sept 10 Vickie Wintersmith
- Sept 14 Glendon Cross
Joy Reams
- Sept 15 Jeff Batchelder
- Sept 16 Troy Leibengood
- Sept 18 Camile Sluder
- Sept 19 Pam Frey
- Sept 20 Shawn Flack
- Sept 21 Karen Conkle
- Sept 22 Andrea Orr
Elaine Mitchell
- Sept 23 Gloria Clark
- Sept 27 Emily Bills
Luann Ostrander
- Sept 29 Al Landeros

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- AUG 3** Sabbath School & Worship; Google Hangout @ 7pm
- AUG 10** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck
- AUG 17** Sabbath School & Worship; Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm; Google Hangout @ 7pm
- AUG 24** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm; Google Hangout @ 7pm
- AUG 31** 5th Sabbath Service Day

Sundays

AUG 18 Church Pond Day

Mondays -

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Thursdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Fridays -

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- SEPT 7** Sabbath School & Worship
- SEPT 14** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck; Google Hangout @ 7pm
- SEPT 21** Sabbath School & Worship; Communion; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm; Google Hangout @ 7pm;
- SEPT 28** Sabbath School & Worship; Education Sabbath; Spanish Church Friendship Dinner/Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm; Google Hangout @ 7pm

Sundays

SEPT 8 Scrapbooking, 10am - 8pm in church fellowship hall

Mondays -

SEPT 2 Labor Day

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

SEPT 24 Church Business Meeting, 7pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Thursdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Fridays -