

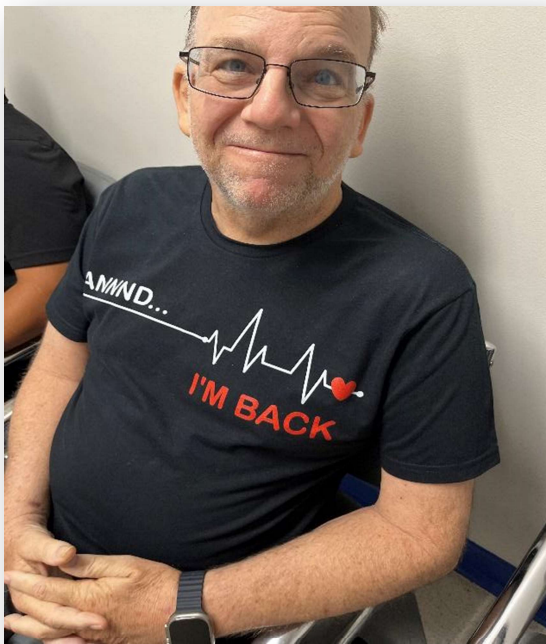


Amazon River Missions Newsletter

October 2023

Todd & Stela on Medical Furlough

Due to Todd's increasing medical issues, Todd and Stela came to the United States in March this year. With a new team of doctors and a significant reduction in medications, Todd started to improve. However, it was discovered during testing that Todd had heart issues and needed multiple bypasses. He had bypass surgery in May and had five bypasses. The surgery was successful but while recovering he had a heart attack. He has had multiple major medical things occur. After his heart attack on Memorial Day, he spent about 2 months in the hospital, including weeks in the Cardiac ICU, cardiac floor, and then Methodist Rehab. He was able to come home at the end of July but had to have dialysis multiple times a week. He was also getting home health services.



He has since completed rehab and stopped dialysis. His hemodialysis port was surgically removed in September. Even though he is no longer having dialysis, his kidneys need much more healing before he can return to Brazil.

Primary prayer requests for him to move forward are:

- 1) the continual improvement of his kidney function so that he can remain off dialysis
- 2) easing the pain in his chest and extremities due to the powerful medicines he was on to keep him alive, and the stress put on his body through all of his medical problems
- 3) improving his memory and cognitive function, as the medicines and machines he was on can affect this and takes months of recovery.

We are extremely grateful to Our Lord Jesus Christ for the Miracle of Life and for the opportunity to continue serving Him wherever He sends us. To Him be all Glory, Honor and Praise!

2023 A Year Like No Other



A Record Drought

The Sanabani River hit its record drought in recorded history! The river drained from a level of 44 feet to zero. Wow, talk about pulling the tub stopper! This has created many problems for ARM and the villagers. Our former houseboat, the Luz Da Vida, sits on dry ground near the mission camp. The river is the primary form of travel in this region. So, staying in contact with the villagers has been a challenge like never before.



Villagers had to build small walking platforms to pass over the now quicksand-like river bottom!

No large boats can travel at all, and only small canoes with very small motors can travel the few places where some water remains. Aside from travel, the villagers depend on the river for food, bathing and washing, and drinking. The drought has affected many aspects of daily life for these people.

Ministry Continues

While Todd and Stela have been in the United States, Polly and Nelson Rossetti have been leading the mission work on the river. They have been continuing the work of visiting villages, sharing the gospel, leading Bible studies both in the villages and at the mission house. They have been helping Todd and Stela for 11 years, and now God has called them to continue the work while Todd and Stela are on furlough in the USA.



Àgata, Nelson, Polly and Hugo Rossetti

Below are members of the team they have put together to lead the mission work while Todd and Stela are in the USA.

Mayara is a graduate in Software engineering. She is also our first Bible English Student at University State Amazonas in Itacoatiara. She knew Polly and Nelson from the Baptist church and took her first trip out onto the Sanabani River to minister to the children on Children's Day.

Mayara's Testimony

God is good to me, I'm happy, I'm walking, and God is good to me! We received an invitation from Sister Polly to carry out this mission with the children.

People! What a Mission!! I truly felt like one of Jesus' disciples walking from one city to another bringing the good news. That in fact I am a disciple of Jesus, but until then I had never gone out like this to meet people so far from my reality. Even more impactful was doing this work right in the dry season, the drought, as the riverside dwellers face the difficulties with the lack of water.

How much we walked was recorded in the history of my life, and it was so worth it!!! God is good to me, I'm happy, I'm walking, and God is good to me! I didn't even know some of the communities we visited.

We talked about Jesus to the children who were our target audience and the parents and adults who were present also heard about Jesus.

To missionaries Todd and Stela, my prayers for you will now be more specific. A big hug! I'm sure their reward in heaven is great, because we did just a little of what they do. And Sister Polly and Brother Nelson who were at the forefront of this mission in these days, strong and courageous, may the Lord bless them more and more every day.

Thank you, Amazon River Mission. Grace and peace.

Agata (age 18), Polly and Nelson's daughter, has also started helping with the mission work. She travels with her parents to the villages and has loved playing with the children since she was a child herself.

Agata Testimony

These days were wonderful, blessed, where I truly felt that I was fulfilling a mission that God had ordained. Observing closely and being able to participate in all the preparations was simply wonderful. Seeing the look of happiness on each child and teaching the word of God was very rewarding. It was one of the best experiences of my life, being able to help the mission was an honor. God is good to us!

Jane is a geography teacher and pastor's wife at the Baptist Church in Itacoatiara City. She met and helped Todd and Stela years ago, and has just this year started going with Polly and Nelson to the villages.

Jane Testimony

Good morning. Grace and peace to all! Jesus is very beautiful. I am very happy to receive the invitation from God, I believe, through our sister Polly, to carry out the mission of bringing Jesus to the people along with her family. For me, it was a new experience to see those people thirsty for God. Despite the difficulties, I asked myself, What Would JESUS Do? Certainly, He would do much more. What a wonderful learning experience it was to visit the communities where everyone asks about you, Pastor Todd and Stela. You two are very loved by these people. I am very, very happy and thank you all for the opportunity!

Polly and Nelson Testimony

Good night, grace and peace, be with everyone.

I will testify of my experience of this calling, Amazon River Missions, under the responsibility of my beloved missionary pastors, Todd and Stela, where I have always had many experiences. Dealing with the responsibility of leading, together with my husband, was an honor for me, where we put before God people who were called to help. I know that God put the names, Mayara, Jane and Ágata in our hearts. When I shared it together with Stela and Todd, they said that if God had already given these names, he said amen to me!

I want to say that these days were recorded in my memory and marked in my missionary history, drought, mud, and the appearance of a never-before-seen desert. I cried out to God, I exclaimed, "Nothing goes out of purpose or out of His control". Nothing intimidated me from getting where I should, to talk about the Word of Life, to sing and tell who Jesus is. Only "He" has the power and the solution to these problems that the riverside people are going through.

At that moment I was experiencing the burning call in my heart, I was crying with joy, grateful to God for the promises fulfilled. As the years had gone by, I thought that the promises would not be fulfilled in my life.

I have 21 years of ministry, my God kept his promises.

Isaiah 6:8 After this I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who shall go for us? Then said I: Here am I, send me.

May all your dreams come true in me, my God!

I thank God for the life of each Missionary.

Let many missionaries rise up, for the work of the Lord Jesus, in this generation!

Children's Day - October 12th

ARM celebrated Children's Day with three villages on October 12th. We went to Santa Luzia, Itua and Raymond. These are the closest villages that we minister in. Normally we take our launch boat, Nova Vida, to the villages. However, since the Sanabani River had no water, we had to carry all the supplies by hand to the villages.

Each community visited on Children's Day started days before the event, with visiting community members in their homes. Visits included Bible reading and discipling those who are already believers, and sharing the gospel with those who weren't.

After a week of these visits, the villagers met at their village's community center for the celebration of Children's Day. Children's Day included Bible stories, music, a meal, and lots of fun and games. Each child who attended received a gift of a toy for the holiday.

Our missionary team had to walk miles on sandy beaches to carry trunks of toys for the Children's Day Event.



Santa Luzia



The Mission Team is pictured with people from Santa Luzia. Agata (back row left in yellow shirt), Nelson (red shirt front right of Agata), Mayara (left on front row), Polly (just to the right of Mayara), Jane (second row, second from right, black shirt & pants with beige sweater).

Itua



Polly (front row left), Jane (second row left), Agata next to Jane

These two pictures were taken at Itua during the Children's Day Event.



Raymond



Polly on the far right.

Camp Luz Da Vida and Mission House

There are 2 workers at the camp who are continuing to keep the camp up and running. They are cleaning, clearing a spot for a soccer field, taking care of boats and house, and working as security to ensure the camp is safe. The camp is continuing to be used for Bible studies, worship services, and other gatherings.

Special Thanks: To all Churches, Brothers and Sisters for your Love, Prayers and support. Thank you for continuing to contribute to the advancement of the Kingdom of God until He Comes!

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory to the ages! Amen.

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