

**From The Helm**  
***Florida IMB Group***  
***Maues River – August 15-21***

***Tuesday, August 15, 2006***

The team got in right on time this morning. No waiting and no bag search. We were underway by 3 AM! I think this is the first time we have gotten off this early in a couple of years. Everyone is in good spirits.

We are almost to the Parana da Eva. Wellington and I are about to deal with the accounting for the trip. At a glance, none of it looks good. I trust the money will stretch.

- I'm going to give Cida a wakeup call in a few minutes. I hope she slept well...

It 8 AM and I just spoke with Cida. How great to hear her voice.

***Wednesday, August 16, 2006***

Arrived in Maues last night at 10:30 (only about 30 minutes off-schedule). Edno showed up right at 11:15 or so. We had a great visit out on the docks while Tory waited on his contact to show up. Poor Tory has a bunch of loose ends hanging around before we can even get started with his ministry. At least we have destinations and, hopefully, some guides for early in the morning – I really hope so.

Edno just gave me his report on needs and works started.

**Needs:** Revesor – 3,900.00; Head kit – 400.00; Chainsaw – 2,200.00

**Works:**

Rio Castanhal – Sao Raimundo - 40 professions

Bacabau – 45 professions

Vila Manaus – 38 professions

Feels led to open work in three communities on the Mucura River and 5 communities on the Urubu River.

This man is really working hard. He has land donated all over the place and has started building in two of the villages on the Castanhal River – that's why he needs a chainsaw...

He needs another helper to take over Lago Preto so he can go in to these new rivers. He mentioned Nurse Francisco. I just told him to be patient – let me get home...

- On the other hand, I am a little concerned with Abraham. He seems to have been sitting in Boa Vista since about May. I have asked Edno to make sure he calls me when he gets the message to do so. I want this set straight...

- The boys got me up at 4:30 this morning. It was a short night but a very productive one with Edno.

- The coffee tastes good this morning. I am going to call Cida at a "proper" hour. I wonder how her conversation went with Kristi yesterday afternoon. I'm anxious to find out.

Right now, the Beatriz is beginning to awaken a bit. It is only 5:32 AM but this team is ready to get to work – I can't blame them...

When we get to shore from anchor, I MUST remember to buy some toothpaste!! Mine ran out...

- Underway on schedule at 7:15 from Maues to parts unknown. The Brasilians from the church that were supposed to come and help us with this work didn't show. So, I left a Jon boat behind to wait until 11 AM. I don't think they are going to show...

The morning went just about as I had thought it might. Everyone is extremely excited about all the decisions for Christ that were made. Everyone shared with a great number of people and the Brazilian couple from Maues that I feared wouldn't show, did indeed show. So, I guess all is well.

It is 1:35 PM and we are about to move in to spend more time on shore. I am eager to watch the service this evening. I want to see how the Gospel is actually presented and if people make public decisions. I trust it is in keeping with the numbers we have seen this morning...

If I need to be incorporating this type of written Gospel lead-in and "evangicube", I need to see the Holy Spirit move through it.

- The team riding with me on the Beatriz just got rejected by a community. They wanted nothing to do with the "evangicube" at all. So, after a whole lot of insisting on our part to stay, we were sent on our way. If we had only had medicine, VBS and maybe a little help for somebody's house to open the way for sharing the "why" of it all...

Now, I just wait for the service and see the actual results. I am optimistic.

- Had a good service this evening. There was a little misunderstanding about where the Jon boats were to meet up with the Beatriz which got me a bit tense. This type of group reminds me of Hardin Baptist – schedule doesn't seem to matter at all when it comes to what they may be involved with at the moment. But, after that got ironed out, I was able

to enjoy the service. It went amazingly well. It is something we could easily incorporate in AMOR's ministries. I counted about 12 public decisions. I was please, no doubt.

The rest of the work day went well with a number of decisions at the last village. By 7:00 PM, we were underway to Maues to meet with the "grand layman" Wilson. We arrived in Maues by 8:00 but were expected to wait until 10:30 this evening for him to show up – had a class or something he just couldn't miss...

The tension between "me" and "me" has been building over the past days about this guy's involvement. He is just not one of us in that he doesn't seem to have the mission field as a priority. I came to find out that Emmanuel Baptist Church of Maues is 26 years old and has just now started to work outside the city (only 4 hours max though) and in the city they don't even have a single independent offspring! What an example to give to us all. So typical of Convention churches that live for themselves and complain that the outside world is not being reached...

- Well, Wilson showed up early at 10 o'clock. The plans have changed and he won't be making it until late tomorrow afternoon. I had already agreed to have him picked up in Maues tomorrow but then he decided to just bring his own Jon boat and I would pay the gasoline. I'm proud of the boy... Otherwise, one of our teams would be out of work all afternoon tomorrow because one of our boats would be gone. Now I feel good about just about everything. The ministry will be effective and not be stalled because of one man...

It is 11:30 PM and we are underway to Sao Francisco of somewhere... I'm tired and 4 AM will be here soon...

### ***Friday, August 18, 2006***

It's 5 AM and I've' been up an hour. I feel pretty good and look forward to a new place and a new day. Lord, I trust this day will go well and that I will be able to solidify some contacts for future trips with this situation. I will most definitely have to participate in most of the activities though. Just sitting with my thoughts gets pretty boring after a while. I just feel like I need to pull some teeth or something...

I'll try calling Cida later today and see how she is – then again, maybe not. I'm sure she is just fine. Maybe I'll call the kids if I get a good enough signal. I haven't spoken with them in a couple of days. Their school starts back on Monday. They need to try and enjoy this weekend as much as possible!

- Well, it is 1:45 PM and we are about to get underway to our next destination. I have no idea where that might be but, we are going there.

- When we got to Freguesia, the winds were so high that sending the teams out to their ministry locations was ruled out completely. So, we sent the Beatriz to deliver them. Then, the winds got even stronger and the Beatriz had to seek safe harbor along the way

as well! To make a short story shorter, the Beatriz ended up bringing the teams back at about 5 PM... It is all in the Lord's hands anyway...

I actually had the chance to help a good number of people today medically. It was all simple stuff but I really enjoyed it – I was back in my element. I just hope it keeps coming that way!

- The rest of the evening went well. We all had a chance to visit a bit and I made a very special friend, Ray Avery. We discussed the ministry and the future. He is a fine man indeed.

### ***Saturday, August 19, 2006***

I was awakened at 4:30 this morning with my usual, good coffee. I since a good day in my spirit...

- All teams were in the Jon boats and gone by about 9:30 AM. The village where we were docked wasn't very receptive until Wilson told them that I would pull teeth and see patients all day! I was proud to do it. Later this evening, he came up to me privately and said that the medical aspect had opened this door that had been closed ***up until*** today. Thank You Lord for allowing me to help in this way.

There was some kind of tournament or political deal going on in this area this afternoon. So, the teams kinda ran around in the Jon's visiting empty houses. Most of the people were right here where I was all day! All is well anyway. The missionary lady that is here with us got to see about 45 patients and I took around 40 teeth out of 25 folks plus, carved out an ulcerated wound on an old man that had been bothering him for 26 years. A day well worked indeed and David worked with me all day long! He was a great help with cleaning the instruments – I couldn't have done it without him. Thank you David...

I quit work at 6 PM and we had regular services at 7 o'clock. Had a good crowd and several accepted Christ.

I had a good visit with Wilson on the bow as we were traveling. He is a good man, now that I have gotten to know him a bit. He was intrigued by AMOR's ministry and has heard a lot about my Dad. Maybe we will work more together in the future.

### ***Sunday, August 20, 2006***

It is 4:15 in the morning and we are anchored just off Freguesia. We will visit around here until 10 this morning then depart for Maues and home after refueling. It is time to go home...

Uncle Tommy and Aunt Tubby have been an incredible blessing to me during these days. They always are but they have been even *more* special and encouraging during this trip. I really do love them dearly – I hope they realize that I would do pretty much anything for them. They are jewels from heaven. I hope the Lord keeps them around for a very long time...

- Well, it is 5:30 now and the sun is about to try and come up through some rain clouds. I think I'll go and watch it.

- The morning went well and was supposed to end at 10 o'clock. It was entirely my fault that it didn't end until 11... A boat load of patients showed up as we were pulling away at 10 and I got caught. I treated a couple of babies for chest colds and a 9 year-old boy that had been run over by a motorcycle. He had a nasty wound and it would have been serious if we had not taken the time to take care of it. It was a mess that just needed to be cleaned up...

It is 11:10 and we are well underway to refuel in Maues and haul it back to Manaus. I trust in the Lord that it all goes well.

- We were refueled and headed for Manaus by 3 this afternoon. We dropped off our passengers, said our good-byes and set our rpm's at 1,600. We should make good time. ETA in Manaus is set for 4:30 PM, tomorrow.

- We had share-time about the trip this evening. It was moving to see the impact that such a few days had on these men from Florida. I was touched by the bond and burden they felt for these people of the Maues interior. They will be back in full force, soon, with reinforcements...

### ***Monday, August 21, 2006***

I got up at 2:30 this morning as we were passing Itacoatiara. Didn't want to just toss and turn so I decided to get up. By my calculations, our 4:30 ETA is still in place for Manaus this afternoon.

### ***Reflections:***

*I must confess that starting out on this venture a few months ago was a bit worrisome to me. I really wasn't sure the trip was even going to happen until the week before the team's arrival.*

*I had spoken to Tory a number of times but had had no direct contact with any of the team members or their leadership. I was a bit anxious, to say the very least.*

*Another cause for concern was the fact that I have never been solely a “logistics” provider. I have always been the man in charge as well. It was a good learning experience for me – a humbling one at that...*

*As far as I can tell, I was “blunt” on only a couple of occasions. A couple of my “pet peeves” are punctuality and the ultimate care of my passengers and vessels. A couple of very minor incidents occurred that got under my skin but I promptly apologized and trust that all is well.*

*I learned a whole new form of ministry that we may be able to incorporate in to AMOR’s mainline. The “Evangicube” is a good tool. More interpreters will be needed but it can add a new dimension to personal evangelism and virtually illuminate the need for written testimonies, etc. I will look into this as soon as I am able to do so.*

*I met some good, new friends this trip. Among them are Eugene, Tim, Ray and Tory. I also met several fine, Christian interpreters that I hope may be used on future trips with AMOR. This quality of interpreter is difficult to find...*

*I have also been doing some serious thinking about the AMOR Beatriz. I am almost inclined to move her to the Parana da Eva so that Wellington can have some work done on her and keep a closer eye on everything until I return to Manaus in January with the Minnesota team. Lord, show me what to do here...*

*Now, it is onward and forward with whatever awaits me back home. There are a world of situations and issues to deal with and I am just going to have to handle them one at a time, one day at a time.*

*It has been a fine year. Costly, but fine. My main objectives at this point are to get my health settled out in Houston; touch base with all the groups; Get the schedule worked out for 2007; Decide what to do with AMOR’s future office and leadership and handle the issue of our new vessel. As I said before though, these things will be worked out as I move along a day at a time. The Lord will lead and I will follow pushing ahead...*