



VISION MINISTRIES

Winter 2005
Newsletter



The Barraclough Family: Joe, Judith, Nadia, Isaac, Jennifer & Caleb—*Serving in Central & South America; Involved in Church Planting, Leadership Training, Youth Outreach & Missions Mentoring*

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us...” (1 John 1:3)

December 26, 2005

Dear Friends,

First of all, thank you so much for all your prayers for us. 2005 certainly brought us some unexpected pain, disappointments and changes. That is not to say that we regret all that has happened. Rather, we have learned much, and gained strength and resolve. We do hope all of you have done well this holiday season. It was a joy to be in the States and spend Christmas with our family. The children enjoyed opening all the presents that were so graciously given, and we all enjoyed getting to be with family and friends.

We would like to begin with some sad news. Many of you have followed the news of the expelling of the New Tribes Missionaries and now Mission Aviation Fellowship, totaling around 300 missionaries from Venezuela. Another US-based missions group has decided to withdraw from the nation, accounting for another 216 missionaries. The main reason cited for having to withdraw from the country was the inability for any missionaries to renew their visas. This central issue is affecting all Protestant missionaries, including us, and I write about this to help you understand the hostile environment in Venezuela right now towards missionaries.

On top of all this, in December the Spirit of the Lord dealt with us to pull out of Venezuela abruptly, for reasons as yet unknown to us. **(This does NOT mean we are ending our missionary service. We plan to remain active in other fields and are seeking specific direction from the Lord as to where. Thank you for your continued prayers and giving while we pass through this unexpected time of transition.)** Through all this, we know that we are in the Lord’s will, though we do not fully understand the timing of everything. We just trust the Lord that He is preparing us for future fruitfulness as we seek His will as to the place or places of missions work for future days.

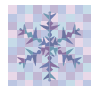
Although our hearts continue to be heavy because of these circumstances, we trust that the Lord will further enable the national believers and empower them to carry on the work in our physical absence. Just as Jesus was “caught up” and left the disciples “gazing” upwards, we trust that the very circumstance of our departure will drive the Believers to press into the Lord as the original disciples did in that upper room, and receive their own Pentecost “not many days hence”.

Summer & Fall Recap

We had an extremely busy summer and fall. Our first summer stop was in Venezuela, where we worked to strengthen the church and rally the believers to greater vision and zeal. Next was a trip to the interior of Panama where we conducted nearly non-stop meetings in four jungle villages. Then, we returned to the States and conducted six revivals and some missions services in October & November. It was a time of refreshing for us. Several were healed in the meetings in November, and many were saved, with several backsliders coming back to the Lord.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Inside, we will share additionally about the missions work in Venezuela and Panama and share some more exciting information about the ongoing work. May the Lord bless you all abundantly and grant you a yearning for revival and renewal.

With love in Christ to our Partners in ministry,
The Barraclough Family
Joe, Judith, Nadia, Isaac, Jennifer & Caleb



VISION MINISTRIES
AN OUTREACH OF GLOBAL MISSIONARY TASKFORCE, INC.

THE BARRACLOUGH FAMILY

*Missionaries to Central
& South America*

U.S. Mailing Address:

Vision Ministries
PO Box 429
Neosho, MO 64850

Field Mailing Address:

Joseph Barraclough. CCS 81488
Edificio Parque Cristal
Los Palos Grandes, Caracas
Venezuela, S.A. 1060-2

Field Phone: 01158-212-284-1282

US Mobile Phone: (972)839-4141

Email:

visionministries2000@hotmail.com

Table of Contents:

PAGE 1:

- Personal Greeting
- Summer/Fall Recap

PAGE 2:

- Bats, Bugs & Bibles
- Sowed Seeds & Sad Separations

PAGE 3:

- Missions Mentoring, Part I—the Family

PAGE 4:

- Missions Mentoring, Part II—Jr. Missionaries
- Reminiscing-old photos

-BUGS, BATS & BIBLES-

-A review of the jungle work in Panama, Central America-

This summer proved extremely beneficial in the way of starting up a new work in Panama. It was Bro. Chuck Akers & Pastor Bill Watson who traveled many miles and trudged through many a jungle trail in December 2004 and early 2005, laying the ground work for the beginnings of a harvest among the Naso Indian tribe in northwestern Panama.

This August Bro. Akers and I went into the Naso territory to conduct extensive services in several key villages. The Lord really did move upon



Little Naso Indian girl attending meeting in Solong village



Meet the village of Bonjik welcoming brigade and constant companions

the hearts of the Naso Indians. Days were spent surveying the area and making contact with the Indians, (and scratching mosquito bites). Evenings passed in a flash with teaching and evangelistic services, (while buzzing off bats and scratching more mosquito bites). In one village, several adults made a public profession of faith in Christ, and united

to form a church with our assistance.

Many Bibles and New Testaments were given out, as well as tracts, and many friendships were made. Several preaching points were established and still, try as we might, we were not able to follow up on every opportunity presented to us.

We are now focused on establishing a permanent base in the central area among the Naso Indians, and are working towards further evangelization of the tribe and church-planting. We plan to spend 2006 making several trips into the region in order to further this work.



Typical Naso Indian home-built on stilts with a palm leaf roof

-SPECIAL NEEDS FOR THIS FIELD-

- **DUGOUT CANOE & OUTBOARD MOTOR:** We are presently in need of a dugout canoe (\$900 USD) and an outboard motor (\$1,900 USD) for transportation up and down the river.
- **PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEM:** A sound system is needed for evangelistic and children's crusades we plan to conduct this coming summer and on into the future. (\$700 USD)

SPECIAL NOTE: Because of our departure from Venezuela, funds for generators given to-date for the Venezuelan work will be utilized in Panama. One generator is being donated by Rev. & Mrs. Mark & Janet Layman of Fort Worth, TX, and funds toward the purchase of another generator have been donated by Bro. & Sis. McGrew of Xenia, IL. We thank the Lord for these generous donations.

SHOULD YOU DESIRE TO GIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THESE NEEDS, PLEASE WRITE A DESCRIPTION IN THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK. DONATIONS ARE FULLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

-SOWED SEEDS & SAD SEPARATIONS-

-A review of the work in the slums of Caracas, Venezuela-

The mother church in Barrio Santa Ana is doing well. Throughout 2004 we worked together with the nationals extending the ministry outreach, adding two



Children's Outdoor Crusade

preaching points, and new ministries within the church. In addition, we completed the building project for the new church annex, providing additional Sunday school space, a fellowship hall and space for a kitchen.



Youth Outreach

In the same year the church also made huge strides towards independence, complete with national preachers, equipped with sound doctrine, and able to support herself, while we hung on to the Lord amidst the military clashes,

and riots that occurred in the last half of the year.

Outreach ministries have continued into 2005, and while the church is far from maturity, she is functioning well, and growing—standing on her own two legs.

With the political and social climate all around her becoming filled with animosity toward religion in general, and Venezuela's schools churn out young minds filled with Communist/Socialist anti-American doctrines, the believers are faithfully



Children's Church Weekly Gatherings

meeting and carrying on the work.

It is a sad time of departure for us as we think over the memories of seeds sown in many hearts among these people, mingled with the hope that we will soon be reunited with them to carry on the work. We believe the Lord will use our forced physical separation from them as a means to



Cross-section of the "concrete jungle" world of the barrios (slums)

strengthen their faith, rooting it deeper in Him, and giving them an outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

Please pray for each one to continue faithfully serving the Lord and for the believers to carry the evangelistic work forward.

MISSIONS MENTORING

Part I: Children

It is our firm conviction that our first and greatest “ministry” is to our own children. The home pre-dates the church as God’s intended structure and institution for mentoring children. That is not to lessen the very important role of the local church. Rather, part of a father’s instruction is to train the children to recognize, adhere, and submit to the government of the local church, but they will learn so much of character and dedication through the teaching and example of parents. As has been wisely said: More is **caught** than **taught!**

The responsibilities of parenthood are awesome and often very demanding. Seldom do we have a “smooth day”, and seldom do we (or any other parent) receive commendation for our efforts to raise a Godly home, but the enormity and seriousness of the task is our driving challenge; the realization of that goal is not just the salvation of our children, but also to see their lives invested in ministry in whatever form that takes. We do not view our children as a “liability” in the ministry, but valuable “assets” to be cherished and nurtured. So for this issue, we would like to share with you not only some “funnies”, but some ways in which our children are learning to be little missionaries of the Gospel.



Armed with a sack of tracts, Nadia passes them out to barrio children during a street meeting.

Nadia Victoria
Birthdate: December 6, 1999, Age: 6

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Nadia has made a public profession of her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize that that commitment is a life-long process. I remember our first few months of full-time missions work in Caracas in 2002. Occasionally, we would go out on the streets of Caracas as a family and pass out tracts, often ministering to the homeless through a warm meal and a chat about the Gospel. On one such occasion, there were three different individuals crossing our pathway. I was heading toward one to give out a tract, and Nadia, our official “scouter” spotted the others. She said, “Daddy, that person over there needs a tract too.” So I replied, “Nadia, you go over there and give them a tract, and I’ll go over there.” She was quick in her response, “Oh no, Daddy. That’s *your* job,” evidently feeling that her commitment ended in the scouting rather than the contacting.

Since those days, Nadia’s awareness of a person’s need for salvation in Christ has blossomed. In devotions she is quick to remind us to pray for certain ones, and when on the streets, she is ever-looking for opportunities for us to talk to someone about the Lord. In street meetings, you will find Nadia passing out tracts to the children who gather, as a means to minister to them.

After hearing Daddy preach on hell, Nadia said, “I don’t want anybody to go there to that place of fire, but if a person doesn’t have Jesus in their heart, I know that they will go there.” That belief is carrying over into practical application in her life.

Reminiscing:



Int’l Traveler--airport in 2005



With baby Jenny—Aug. 2002



With baby Andrew, early 2004



May 2002, Caracas

Isaac Joseph
Birthdate: May 26, 2001, Age: 4 1/2

Isaac is a brave-hearted explorer, whether the location is a closet, a backyard, a trailer, or a slum. In a recent devotion on commitment, we were teaching the children about the wedding vow, while teaching the story of Isaac & Rebekah. The children were dramatizes a mock wedding, with Isaac as Isaac, and Nadia as Rebekah. As the vows were being “exchanged”, poor old Isaac got the affront of a life-time. Isaac had gracefully gotten through with his vow, and Rebekah (Nadia) was repeating after me, the presiding minister of the mock wedding. This is how it turned out:



Int’l traveler, at airport in mid-2005



Early 2002--first months in Caracas.

Minister “Now Rebekah, repeat after me. I, Rebekah”
Nadia “I, Rebekah”
Minister “take thee Isaac”
Nadia “take thee Isaac”
Minister “to be my lawfully married husband.”
Nadia “to be my *AWFULLY* married husband.”

After that slip of the tongue, the giggles started fast and lasted long. Such is the encountering of pure joy and lasting memories in the teaching of our children.

But back to the focus: through this beautiful process of mentoring, especially within the last few months, Isaac has portrayed such a **commitment** of faithfulness and loyalty toward the family. He works hard as a team player in chores, and is tender toward the other children, desiring to minister to their needs.

He also feels a part of the ministry, and helps out when needed. One morning I called out his name, “Isaac”. He came and said, “Isaac’s not here.” I responded, “Then, where is Isaac?” He replied, “I don’t know.” So, I played the game out, and asked, “If you’re not Isaac, then who are you?” He looked up with a big grin on his face and politely said, “I’m not sure where Isaac is right now, but as for me, I’m the Preacher Boy.”



Christmas 2004, Caracas, Venezuela

Jennifer Ann

Age 3

Birthdate: August 7, '02 & '03



Baby Jenny Phoenix, 2002



On guard!-mid 2003



El Cafetal, Venezuela, early 2004

Caleb Andrew

Age: 2

Well, our “Little Ones” as I call them, are just plain growing up fast. They listen with rapt attention to the Bible stories. Occasionally, Caleb will shout a hearty “amen”, whether at an appropriate time or not.

Jennifer rattles off memory verses. They both sing in their sweet sing-song voices, and climb up in our laps for lots of hugs and kisses.

They jump, run, hide, and play for endless hours—the innocence of childhood. We are so blessed to have them.



Balding at an early age—one month (Aug '03)



End of meal time, El Cafetal, 2004

Big enough to blow his own nose. Sniffles in mid-2005



MISSIONS MENTORING

Part II: J. Missionaries

One of the "un-said" parts of our efforts in missions work this year has been in the ongoing support and training of beginning missionaries. Beginning in 2000, prior to becoming full-time missionaries, we began to help missionaries with accounting and limited legal work stateside.

Upon becoming full-time missionaries in 2002, we continued helping with the accounting needs of other missionaries, while gaining experience on the field ourselves. Our desire was always to use the skills we possessed to help other missionaries. The desire to help other missionaries has broadened into our present work. Beginning in 2005 we began, together with the Akers, a process of mentoring new missionaries. We are committed to providing training and support to others in order for them to fulfill their calling to missions work.

Our desire is to see more of our young people get involved in missions work, overcoming the many obstacles in doing missions work on a full-time basis. With over 16,000 people groups in the world today, 40% of which are unevangelized (2.5 billion souls), God is needing more laborers, and so our goal is to train and send as many laborers as possible into this great harvest field. Please pray for God to raise up more faithful workers to carry this Gospel of the Kingdom into this lost and dying world.



Reminiscing: I can't say that Judith or I have gained any weight during our missionary career, or haven't braved a few struggles and endured some pain, but one thing we can absolutely say for certain....



2003 prayer cards, now with three children, with a fourth child on the way. (Children: Nadia 3, Isaac 20 months, Jennifer 5 months.)

...we have been blessed beyond words to have been given the opportunity to do God's will in missionary service supported by your friendship and faithfulness. God bless each one of you!



Family photo just prior to starting full-time missionary work, Phoenix, Arizona, Fall 2001. (Children: Nadia, Age 2, Isaac 5 months.) We left for Caracas six months after this photo was taken.



Christmas 2003 photo after the birth of Caleb Andrew, shown here at 3 months old. We returned to Caracas shortly after this photo. (Nadia 4, Isaac 2, Jennifer 15 months, Caleb 3 months).

VISION MINISTRIES
PO BOX 429
NEOSHO, MO 64850

THE BARRACLOUGH FAMILY
MISSIONARIES

Affix mailing label here.