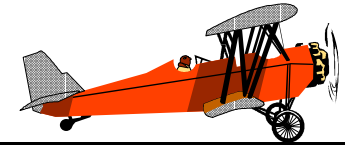


# News from the Ends of the Earth



"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 40:28)

News from the Amazon Rainforest - Spring 2002, Issue #19

## Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God!

"You are not talking to me," Doris said confidently, "You are talking with the daughter of the most high God." This left the cranky boat captain speechless. But in a few minutes he had recovered sufficiently to find something else to be sarcastic about. Captain Andre had no idea how true Doris's words were as the mission's trip continued. He had been hired for three days to take a group of 45 Brazilian ladies (and one missionary) 7 hours up the Black River to Tiririca, where a Wesleyan Church was planted 3 years ago. He had a boat load of God's daughters and he did not seem to appreciate it one bit.

The trouble started that Saturday morning. Instead of a spacious boat that was agreed upon a smaller boat pulled up to the make shift dock. With so much already invested there appeared to be no choice but to take this boat. Doris, the Women's Society president, went around and collected money from each lady and proceeded to discuss business matters with Captain Andre. Would he consider discounting the price since he had not given us the boat requested. How about raking off a tithe, 10 percent? "No way," he grunted. He was not interested in a

"dízimo" (Portuguese for "tithe") but in "diesel". He laughed at his own wit. He was not going to budge. From then on he harassed the group of women with rude comments.



Once we docked the boat at Tiririca, the Lady Joyce II, became our home. With hammocks strung in every imaginable place sleeping would be tight. The captain told us not to use the bathrooms on the boat as they might pollute the river by the kitchen. The only option for bathrooms was a community outhouse in the village. Water would have to be hauled up to it. The only running water in this community flowed along the banks of Tiririca.

Sunday dawned with fresh hope. There would be a full day of services, visiting, a first-aid workshop and clothing donations. The Lord would most certainly bless our day. Late morning, though, we had our doubts. The Captain was suppose to ferry out to the middle of the river, refill the water tanks and clean the muddy decks. Not a purr of the motor was heard. Had the captain gone back on his word again? Word soon spread why the boat had not moved. The motor was not working. We were stuck in Tiririca.

Concern was etched on the faces of the leaders. What could we do? Soon the captain came up with some ideas. His son could come and get everybody but the mission's trip would have to be cut short since the other boat had to be back in Manaus by morning. Or the women could wait a day until something else could be arranged. The women did not like the idea of traveling at night. While the river was low, there could be dangers. A compromise was struck that the boat would leave in the middle of the night, giving less hours of darkness.

After the service that night the large and spacious Lady Joyce III arrived. The women were excited as hammocks and baggage were quickly transferred. Captain Andre stood down in the hole with the non-working motor. He was perplexed. The captain's son came over to help and as he tried the motor suddenly came to life, as if in perfect condition. The father and son exchanged looks. The father's look was one of disbelief, the son's was one of irritation. I do not know when Captain Andre realized it but he was dealing with Someone bigger than himself. He had tried to cheat some of God's choicest servants. He had mocked and ridiculed them for two days, and now God, who loves justice, had the last word. God had forced this man to give us the boat that was arranged.

He had humbled him and caused him to lose all of the money he had cheated to gain. Please pray for Captain Andre. He is the uncle of one of our church members. We would love to see God be able to bring this full circle and restore this man's soul.

### Calendar of Events

May: Latin American Wesleyan World Fellowship  
Meeting in Costa Rica  
July: District Conferences  
August: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester begins - Bible College

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