

Dear Brothers and Friends!

Santarém, 1 February 2021

I have already started several letters. I wanted to write about the situation of pandemic, and then about my trip to southern Brazil in September, about the time I spent with my CLM children; followed by the large-scale DIFLEN conference; birthday; COVID, after COVID - before Christmas; Christmas; New Year; COVID aftermath, second wave; deaths; ... about why I fasted, what I understood, what I didn't, what I am looking for; ...

WHERE DO I START?

First of all; thank you so much for being a part of my life and for being alive. Have you ever wondered and asked God why did He keep us alive so far? I have. His answer is quite clear and calls for a purposeful to life:

"...you will shine among them like stars in the sky. You will shine as you hold on tight to the word of life. Then I will be able to boast about you on the day Christ returns." (Philippians 2:16)

Wow! How would I be different from the world? This is impossible without grace and mercy. But these are ours already in Jesus. May He overflow through us and we testify to all those whose hearts are open to the Good News. The world was shaken, many of our bases that seemed immovable before COVID moved out of place. Let's be honest with ourselves! Adapting to our ever-changing world takes enormous proportions from us, and God's children are also entangled in anxiety and fear. It is not a sign of immaturity, nor a weakness, nor is it the work of the enemy, but the rapidly changing world burns everything out from within us. Remember, our help is with us: the strongest antidote is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Peace ...

We know that in Whom we believe can not only calm the storm, but He is the Lord of the storm. He became the Word. (John 1: 1) "Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest mark of a pen will disappear from the Law until everything is completed." (Matthew 5:18) "The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever." (Isaiah 40: 8) In the waves of my life, I find the Safe Harbor in the Word.

According to the news, there have been earthquakes on Earth every day for the past week, (Jan 26- Feb 1) all the same size, including one in Brazil! Earthquakes were unknown in Brazil. Let us read the Bible as the revealed Word of God, the Book of Life. He instructs us to watch the signs so we know when the end is coming. Like a laboring mother, the world is suffering, waiting for something good to happen at last. Isn't that the feeling we struggle with day to day? Between unpredictable turns, how can we shine as stars? It's only possible when we all are in our designated place; just as in the universe every celestial body has a fixed place. I encourage you not to look at the cost, **just shine!** The Lord is near!

A few words about everyday life:

In October, we at PAZ decided that there was no point in continuing to invest in the guest house, but instead investing time and money in people's lives. I had one last Brazilian group in November – they spread COVID to me – and I was delighted to have the opportunity of closing my ministry, which I had been doing for 7 years. This group had a 6-day boat trip from somewhere in the heart of the Amazon. The conference was a miracle itself in the middle of pandemic; our youth received guidance, teaching, and challenges, and the leadership directed their vision to the last great harvest, which may be a challenge to their generation. Besides driving the combi (WW van) I also attended all the lectures and learned from them and renewed my commitment to serve my God faithfully.

The closing of the Guesthouse at the end of December does not mean that we will no longer accept groups; but that we will move forward with a flexible plan as needed in the future.

For me, however, it means now, after emptying the house, selling furniture, and redeploying labor, that I can direct my time and energy to a new area. The service of the guest house was mainly for foreigners. Due to COVID, the international travels are closed, but the commandment in Matthew 28:18 speaks until the return of Jesus. Evangelism along the river and within the city continues. We have invested in the training and support of our Brazilian brothers. With 5 young couples we already expanded the Mission's team. The areas were divided among themselves, and with renewed impetus and youthful force they reached the communities traveling farther and farther. Delivering basic food packages to new villages has opened doors. Since then, they have returned there with physical and spiritual services and lots and lots of love. The number of converts is increasing, to the glory of God.

I also spent the New Year in such a trip. 25 of us went on a 4-day trip on our boat. We celebrated New Year's Eve under the open sky on the banks of the Tapajós River with thanksgiving and praise. After midnight first we entered the New Year with prayer, then entered the river with new hopes.

This is a Brazilian local custom. According to an ancient view, "you came from the river and will become river" - this also defines today's culture. When flooding, the level of rivers rises by 7-9 meters. The cemeteries are in the floodplain, and they are submerged at high level time. Everything is determined by the alternation of rainy and dry (drier) seasons. Their view is biblical when we consider that the highway of the rainforest is the river.

The purpose of our trip was to build a more serious and time-resistant house for an elderly couple, instead of a used up palm-leaves hut. From donations, with volunteers. During the days we spent together, in addition to the physical work, we also held call group with the villagers and glorified God together with our brothers and sisters. My personal service was also English tutoring and spiritual conversations with teen girls about a meaningful and clean life. At trips like this, there is always something new on the table. However, this time the best moment was that I was able to watch the huge fishing eagle wrap itself up in its fly and slam into the river ... and then breaks free to the sky from under water with its pray. We live in a wonderful world. I have thanked my God many times for placing me on Earth, this wonderful planet, for these few decades before eternity. The colors, the mountains and the valleys of our lives ... everything is known before Him. If the eagle could succeed, I will succeed too! I hold my Master's hand and all I ask today is: LEAD ME!

Prayer requests:

1. Protection, provision, guidance - the most COVID infected place on the global scale now is the region where I live; medical care is not very satisfying
2. A grateful heart in all circumstances – may I see God in happenings and behind the scenes
3. Courage and faith for the new phase, flexible adaptation, calling, and spiritual vision
4. Pray for Sr. Orelino and D. Maria in their new house; D. Maria suffers from initial Parkinson disease
5. Prayer for Isabel, (15 years old) to happen a meaningful change in her living conditions, so she can live and learn in security and peace. May the Lord show me my part in this.
6. Pray for those who mourn. My former colleague from the CLM family, Wilson, died of a heart attack a week ago... the CLM family is mourning. (CLM - previous ministry in the state of Paraná) We are bombarded with bad news due to COVID and deaths.
7. Praise God with me for His faithful providence, spiritual and material support.

Thankfully: Viktoria