

Venezuela

Trip News

Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela



July 10-22, 2008

Goals of the Trip

Our main goals were to make a short film, fellowship with the people, deliver Vacation Bible School materials, and evangelize using movies.



Puerto Ayacucho

Bernie, Jean, Gabriel, and Kim traveled to Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela. Puerto Ayacucho is the capital of and the largest city in the state of Amazonas. The city is located across the Orinoco River from Colombia.

There are several indigenous tribes in the area and many of the city's inhabitants are of indigenous origin.



Daniel and Doris Matheus

We stayed in the home of Venezuelan missionaries Daniel and Doris Matheus. After the government forced missionaries out of the jungle, Daniel and Doris moved to Puerto Ayacucho. They have a heart for the Yanomamo people and continue to work with them in the city.

Their home is always open to those in need. To see their heart for ministry and their generosity is an encouragement. What a testimony to those around!



The Making of a Film

Using Films to Reach People for the Gospel

The Lord laid on Gabriel’s heart the desire to make a film. So with video camera in hand, he set off to accomplish the task.

On Sunday afternoon, Gabriel met with the youth group of Daniel and Doris’ church.

He solicited ideas for the plot and enlisted volunteer actors. Their suggestions sparked an idea and that evening Gabriel wrote the script.

Under a tight deadline, Gabriel

had until his flight on Tuesday morning to accomplish the seemingly impossible.

On Monday, after a grueling schedule, the filming was complete. Gabriel stayed up until the wee hours of the morning editing the film.

On Tuesday morning, by the time he left for the airport, the film was ready for viewing. Gabriel credits the Lord for the creativity and the ability to pull it off.

For the youth, we had a special viewing of the movie. In the film, through a series of events, the main character (Daniel) realizes the condition of his heart and his need for a savior. The film will be a relevant, evangelistic tool for the youth to use in reaching out to their community.

PHOTOS: *left*, cast observing Director Gabriel at work; *middle*, Gabriel filming a scene set in the field; *right*, Gabriel introducing the script.

Yanomamo Bible Study

Over the years, missionaries have established a written language for the Yanomamo, a people of oral tradition. Bible stories and worship songs have been translated and printed.

Daniel, Doris, and Johannes use these materials to lead a Bible study at their church. Doris noted that one advantage of

working in the city versus the jungle is the opportunity to work with Yanomamo from various communities.

Returning to the jungle, the Yanomamo bring what they’ve learned about the Bible to their respective communities, multiplying the missionaries’ teachings of the Gospel.





Pozo Azul



Delfin and Emirso



Movie Night

Pozo Azul

On two different occasions, we went to Pozo Azul (Blue Well) with the youth from Daniel and Doris' church.

With the rains, the river swelled and provided a fun outing for all ages.

On one occasion, the women cooked *sancocho*, a typical stew with meat and a variety of vegetables. Some sprinkled powdered manioc on top.

A few of the kids caught fish and roasted them over the fire.

PHOTOS: Pozo Azul with the flooded river; boys showing their catch; Doris and Daniel tending the fire for the *sancocho*; Gabriela, a Yanomamo toddler, playing in the water.

The Yanomamo

Daniel and Doris have a love for the Yanomamo people. Doris shared that if she could redo her life, she would become a missionary at a younger age, simply for more time to work in the jungle with the people.

Fluent in the language, Daniel and Doris have a unique opportunity for ministry and evangelism.

Currently Daniel and Doris have living with them a Yanomamo man Johnny and his six-year-old son Emirso.

Language is an interesting reflection of culture. The words that don't exist in Yanomamo are substituted with Spanish ones, for example numbers, dates, and clothing. Yanomamo count "1, 2, lots" and traditionally wear very little clothing.

Movie Night

Twice we had the opportunity to show an evangelistic movie in two different tribal communities.

In the countryside surrounding the city of Puerto Ayacucho are many small communities of indigenous people.

In the first community, we showed *Facing the Giants*, which is always a crowd pleaser. Daniel followed the film with an appropriate biblical message.

With a power outage, the second evening became an impromptu service, complete with singing, testimonies, and Daniel presenting a Gospel message.