



May 2022

### *43 years and counting...*

**43 years and counting...**...this is how long we have been in Costa Rica. With longevity one builds a rapport in the community. Our daughter and her family were visiting this past month and during this time they rented a vehicle from a local merchant. On the day that the man returned for the vehicle, Russ was out front washing our car and when the man saw him he asked, "Is that Russ Turner?". Rachel said, "Yes, do you know him?" He recounted a time when we were visiting some friends at his place of business. Our friends introduced us to him, and Russ struck up a conversation. The man began to tell Russ of a difficult situation that he was facing. As is common for Russ, he said, "Let's just pray about it", and had prayer right there on the spot. The man said that impressed him so much that he never forgot it.

Missions is day to day work. As we walk to town to do business, it is common to hear, "Hola, Don Russ." We may or may not immediately recognize the person, but it is someone whom Russ has impacted in some way - through the church, young people's meetings, camp or just having prayer with someone on the street. A pastor once told a member of the church, "Don Russ is likely to have prayer with you right on the street."

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### *Why do we continue to go?*

**"You are the only missionary who comes to teach, help and encourage us. Now that the missionary has retired and gone back to the States, you are filling in the gap."** Or - **"Thank you for coming. We understand what you are teaching."** These are the words of many different Guahibo pastors who live in this vast reservation in eastern Colombia. This reservation, in the department of Vichada, encompasses an area of 38,703 square miles and borders with Venezuela. Most travel is by river or by air and in the dry season by motorcycle.

There are scattered churches throughout this immense reservation, and the pastors and workers are hungry to learn more than the simple basics of Scripture. They flock to each seminar, hang on to every word taught and ask interesting, intelligent questions. Each new pastor that attends pleads with Russ to come to his village and teach so that surrounding pastors can come and learn more. What a challenge!

**In January** we held the largest attended seminar to date in the town of [Cumaribo](#). We held another seminar **in March** in the **village of Cumariana** - about a 45-minute motorcycle ride from the town of Cumaribo. Pastors and workers from outlying villages attended and with joy heard teaching on Pastoral Practices, Bible Interpretation and Future Events.

The pastors are excitedly planning the next two seminars in August. They will take place in two other villages. God continues to expand the reach of the seminars.



Cumariana Church and Seminar

### *It's Sunday! Let's go to church...*

How easy it is for most people to hop in the car and drive to church - even if it is a distance away. Following the Cumariana seminar, Russ traveled to a distant church in Chaparral for the Sunday service.



### *The Journey:*

Russ and two indigenous men began the journey on motorcycles from the town of Cumaribo to the River Vichada with a 45-minute ride through swamps and across two rickety boardwalk bridges. When they arrived at the river, the men loaded the motorcycles into the waiting canoe and began the 30-minute ride to the other side. Arriving at the river bank they once again mounted motorcycles for another long ride to the church. For an hour the people enthusiastically sang many native songs, and then Russ preached about the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Following the church service, Russ visited and encouraged 5 more village churches before returning to Cumaribo.

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### *Lynn's Corner - "Little missionaries in training"*

These past three months were very busy for me - but in such a good way! Our daughter and three granddaughters came to Costa Rica and lived beside us for a short time. Rachel is bilingual since she was born and reared here in Costa Rica, and she and her husband want their daughters to be fluent in Spanish as well. So in the midst of helping Russ prepare for his trips to and from the different jungle seminars, I put a few things on the back burner, so to speak, and just enjoyed my little girls. What fun it was to hear them run into the house "mouth first", "Hey, Tita, guess who's here?"

We celebrated two of their birthdays with piñatas and lots of friends. The girls and I cooked together making pancakes, homemade biscuits, chocolate cake and cookies. We took them to the river to swim - one cold river and the other warm - two different climates in our area. Russ hung hammocks in the back yard for them to swing in and made a temporary fire pit to roast hotdogs and marshmallows on several occasions. They also helped "Tito" pack for his trips all the while asking many questions about the indigenous mission trips. Blessings! I will always treasure this time!



Thank you for allowing us to be your outreach in Latin America.