

## The Smiths

## Missionaries to

## **Brazil**



Sharon and Bill

Dear Friends,

## Novo Airão, Amazonas, Brazil

August, 2018



**July** – Pastor Jose Orlaim invited us to come visit the church in Novo Airao for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Church Anniversary. We used to travel 10 hours by passenger boat but now we can cross the Rio Negro river by bridge and go in a taxi that only takes about 2 ½ hours, depending on the holes in the asphalt. (125 miles)

We started this work back in 1975 meeting in a small building. Land was given to be used for the church construction. We bought some land close to the church to build our house. We had services with just a roof and no walls.

Little by little the church grew, and the people gave. Wooden walls were added, then brick walls. Now they have a very nice comfortable building for the church people to meet. Even among many difficulties and Pastor changes this church has continued to give the Gospel.





The shortest lady in this picture lived way up the river as a child and came to church by canoe. She grew up and is still attending the church in Novo Airão along with her daughter. What a joy to revisit with some of the people we knew as children and teens Some are out of church or attending other churches, but the Gospel was given to them and is still being given to others.



Pastor Jose Orlaim and Herleilson were excited to show us the property the main church bought to begin a new work in a new neighborhood across town. Many houses have already been built.

Herleilson is from Novo Airão. He graduated from the Bible Baptist Institute in Manaus. He is a good preacher and plays the guitar. Pray for this new work.

The church provided a hotel for us to stay while in Novo Airão and it was located along the Rio Negro river. It was on the same location where we held services in 1975 and where the

first man lived that was saved at that time. The Hotel owner's Father passed away and they were having the visiting hours at the same time we arrived. We were able to visit with some of the family and they told us that their Father would never let them come to church but he had been saved later in life and was reading his Bible the day he died. Praise the Lord. This picture of the sunset was taken by us from our hotel. What a blessing it was to visit this church again and see how God is still working today.

