

WEEK 39 • SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Brazil: The Floating Church

Matthew 25:38-40—“When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ”

The massive Amazon River stretches 4,000 miles (6,700 km) from the mountains of Peru to the Atlantic Ocean. Amair Jesus [ah-MAYR hay-SOOS] lives in a village on the Amazon. Every day he paddles his small boat from village to village, watching out for crocodiles and deadly snakes. When he reaches each village, Amair prays, asking God for a blessing on his efforts. Then he wastes no time taking the love of Jesus to the people who live there.

Amair visits a woman who is going through a difficult time. He reminds her that heaven is hers as a believer. There she will know no pain or suffering or tears. His message rings sweet in her ears. Amair closes with prayer for peace and a blessing upon the woman’s household.

As Amair steps outside, he greets a group of children playing. He stops to talk with them about God’s exciting plan for their lives. Amair is their friend, and they trust him as he introduces them to a caring Savior.

Amair explains his work this way: “We visit people, seeking to identify their needs and helping them however we can. We make friends and teach them about God. By helping the people, we can break down barriers so as to bring them the gospel.”

The vast size of the Amazon River makes this mission a challenging work for pastors and lay workers like Amair.

For years the local Adventist leaders have dreamed of building a boat that could bring God’s message to the people who live on its shores. Almost 100 years after Leo Halliwell launched the first Luzeiro mission boat that provided medical and spiritual care to the people who lived on the Amazon, this new boat has become a reality. The new boat and its pastor provide hope and connection with their church to the villages along the Amazon.

Projects such as the mission boat can reach much more than several smaller boats like Amair’s. When God’s people meet a major project far bigger than what one conference or union alone can support, they can unite in making the project become a reality. No matter where we live, we can help by giving our regular and systematic offering to God to make the project a reality. In addition, special, sacrificial offerings may be given as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Let’s continue to give our offerings to God so that more people can hear the word of God wherever they live.

For years the local Adventist leaders have dreamed of building a boat that could bring God’s message to the people who live on its shores.
