

June 30, 2006

The Peruvian Amazon has called us again. This trip is special as I was able to bring my 23 year old daughter with me. I promised each of our kids an opportunity to visit a developing country. She has proven to be a great traveler and a big help to her aging parent.



My laptop packed it in the first day here in Peru. I needed a screwdriver to remove a faulty memory chip. Does anyone know how to say screwdriver in Spanish? I gestulated to the hotel support staff and 10 minutes later had a refreshing looking drink delivered to the room. The 'Screwdriver' I received wasn't much help in fixing the computer and the staff was upset I sent it back.



We flew several hours from Pucallpa in the jungle to an even more remote area in order to see some of the Nativo evangelists in action. (see Google Earth file) There are still tribes in the Amazon who have not had contact with outsiders. It is estimated that there are about 15 untouched tribes left in Peru alone.

It was unbelievably hot. We had only a few days in the bush. It is impressive what these people endure that would kill the average North American. Dengue fever, Malaria, Hepatitis A-Z, lots of bugs, alligators, piranha, Anaconda and many smaller snakes. Our boat trip lasted several hours. The villagers brought food to share with us. (maggots not shown) Often workers travel several weeks by boat to cover tribal territories! Some teams stay 3-6 months to make 'first contact.'



I met some of these committed people last July during a visit to this new ministry. They have charged ahead and added more than 10 couples to the original dozen workers, with many

more ready to go with some financial backing. I received good news while here that a foundation in Canada was interested in partnering to build a headquarters for them in Pucallpa. We want to get these guys boats, motors and radios. They are literally weeks from anything resembling a town and medical help. Radio is an essential tool for security and health.



These workers are helped by some great folk at Amazon Focus and Pioneers. They all share a concern and love for the neglected tribes in these remote areas. Steve and Stacie Brooks looked after our needs while in Pucallpa.

This is an exciting area of the world with change happening quickly. There is talk of roads being pushed through to link Brazil with the Pacific. Change like that will affect these areas dramatically, often negatively. We have a short window of opportunity to help these remote people prepare for a fast changing world.

Phil Dempster

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