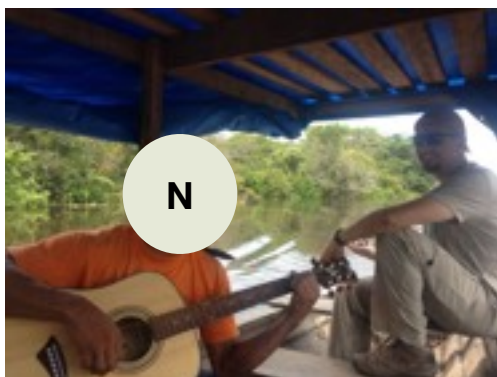


# BRANCHING OUT



## Swapping Roles



The goal this year, is to take the men I have invested in for the past three years and mobilize them. One of the ways I planned to do this was to utilize my connecting churches/volunteer teams to help provide new opportunities for these leaders. On this trip, my desire was to swap roles with N and have him share the stories that he has been hearing from me. N had just left the hospital the day before with meds to treat the malaria he had contracted. He was tired, weak, and had a mouth full of fever blisters. So what did he do, he drove his boat two hours the next day to come and pick us all up and take us back to his house. Floored by his commitment to the LORD to serve during such adversity, I took over driving the boat so he could rest. He rested briefly and then whipped out the guitar to start singing praise songs. That's N!

On the second night in the village, we loaded up and headed out to village Tip to hold our medical clinic and share the Good News. Afterwards, we gathered as many as we could for a share time and to show the Jesus film. N storied that night for the first time. I sat and watched, like a proud father, while N storied with such confidence and while acting out the story. He then, after the story, took out his guitar and worshipped the LORD with all he had. This man's commitment to the LORD is so convicting and challenging on so many levels. He did amazing and I am excited to see what the future holds for this man!

## Meeting Felt Needs



This team consisted of three different churches working together for the first time, but you would have never known that by observing them. They came together and served as a single unit as if they had done it for years. I was thoroughly impressed with their willingness to serve and do anything they could to help meet the needs of the people in Tip. We had planned on going from house to house again in order to share the Good News with everyone personally, but that was not able to happen this go around.

We saw very interesting cases and these guys, as trained professionals, didn't flinch at anything thrown at them. There were several times when I had to remind my face to not react.

By these guys coming and giving of their time and money to serve in this way, not only helped us gain access into a new village. They helped us gain favor among them, get invited back any time, and provided my leaders an opportunity to step out into their leadership role in a new village.

## Working as a Team



A couple of hours after stepping foot into Operation 10, the team wanted to walk the village. So we loaded up and started out on our walk. On our way down, we noticed a bunch of the children jumping off the bridge into the river. We stopped to watch these little "monkeys" climb up trees and jump out. We then continued walking down the village until we came to the chief's house. We said hi and thanked them for letting us in the village. On our way back, we came to the same bridge. This time, the atmosphere of fun and laughter had switched to panic and crying. As we go closer, we saw a little girl in the water at the base of the bridge with blood running down her neck. We managed to get her out of the river to notice the worst chin gash I have ever seen. The little girl saw her mom coming and she knew she was in trouble, so she took off running. We all started out after her because she needed medical attention. Little did the girl know, she was running to where our team was staying. So we got her back to the house where we were staying and the team just responded. They were able to stop the bleeding, assess the wound, clean it, and patch it up enough to last to the next day so they could go to the closest hospital and get stitches. The way these guys responded only helped me gain more confidence from the people. This little girl and her family don't currently attend church. So this was definitely an act of God to help us get a step further into their lives.



# Heading Out Again



Alright guys, your work is never done when it comes to pr\*yer. Please do me a favor and lift us up as we head out today for T-town. We have a team, as some of you already know, that has been delayed in their arrival here due to a snow storm in the US. They were supposed to arrive yesterday. Now, they are arriving an hour before the gate closes for our flight to T-town. We have jumped through hoops to make this happen. Please lift us up, especially the team, that they will arrive on time today with all of their luggage. It is going to be a tight squeeze! They are going to be so exhausted by the time they arrive as well. They have been in the Bogota airport since midnight.

We have a lot planned for this week and desperately need your pr\*yers on our behalf. We are going to have 8 packed days ahead of us as we engage children, youth, leaders, and the entire community as a whole daily. The goal is the same as in Op. 10. Utilize teams to gain access, favor, and unique platforms to draw people out and engage them with the g\*spel. On this trip, the platform will be soccer tournaments.

## How to pr\*y

**\*Pr\*y for safety, health, and logistics of this team trip**

**\*Pr\*y for the leaders in T-town and surrounding villages as they step up and step out!**

**\*Pr\*y for Erin and kiddos while we are away. I can't believe that we are coming on 5 years of serving with our organization. I'm so proud of my wife and the sacrifices she makes daily to be here with me.**

**\* Pr\*y for the salv\*tion of those listening. That the message will be clear and the H.S. will speak loudly through all of the cultural hindrances keeping them from the truth and freedom.**