



from Our World to Yours...

eberhard newsletter

february 2020

Dear family and friends,

Some of you may remember how finding the appropriate music style was a big breakthrough many years ago during our time with the Mamaindê. Well, this year we discovered that the story of that music has come full circle. God is using it to speak to them once more, and in a very powerful way.

Some 15 years ago, while we still lived in the Mamaindê village of Capitão Pedro, the youth there had lost all interest in their traditional music genre. They only wanted to listen to "western" music. After staying up all one night, I (Dave) translated 16 new Mamaindê worship tunes - western tunes but with lyrics translated from Portuguese to Mamaindê. The songs were an instant hit and have been sung faithfully since.

Fast forward to the present...

In the summer of 2019, in Capitão Pedro village where there has been very little interest in the Gospel, 22 children were suddenly afflicted with demon possession. They ranged from 16 down to 3 years old. All of them were controlled by spirits who caused them to behave in unpredictable and violent ways - speaking in strange voices, comatose for hours, rigid limbs, shaking, violence towards loved ones, no desire to eat, etc. The whole village was deeply concerned. The shaman attempted to heal them but nothing happened. They called in shamans from surrounding tribes, but the conditions just got worse. This situation persisted for 2 months. The government attempted to give medical help to those that were in danger of starving, but the children rejected any help.

Finally Paulo Mamaindê, a believer from the other Mamaindê village of Cabixi, went to a nearby town, contacted a Brazilian pastor friend in that town, and the two of them went to Capitão Pedro village. The children were laying on the ground like stacks of wood. The pastor prayed for them all. Then Paulo began to sing those simple little Mamaindê worship tunes that we had translated many years ago. One by one the children started to slowly come to their senses. Over a period of several days all were healed. The demons left. The power of God prevailed.



In January of 2020, in my most recent visit to the Mamaindê, the people of Capitão Pedro village were all talking about that power encounter. They asked if we could all sing those songs. **We must sing God's songs again, they said.** There was an interest there I have never seen before. They had seen the power of God demonstrated through music and they knew that their children were healed by His hand.

When I consider how God used music in this situation, it is easy to be skeptical. It's easy to think that it is a small thing - that the main way that God speaks will always be through the scripture, or preaching, or prayer. We want to rush through the music and get to these important things. But in Mamaindê land they just wanted to sing. It was their way of thanking God. And when I think about it, every time the Mamaindê interact with the spirit world it is always through music. The shaman conducts his healing through singing to the spirits. The female puberty rite, which involves asking protection from evil spirits, involves a whole night of singing. The fertility rite that is conducted when they plant their fields every year is done by way of special flutes. When they celebrate the Flute Spirit ceremony, they do that by speaking through a flute. In all of these connections with the metaphysical world, the means of communication for them is music. So it is not that strange that God has chosen to speak to them in the very way that they understand is the most appropriate avenue for spiritual communication.

And those songs that were translated in a single night of inspiration back in 2004 have come full circle. Mamaindê children were the original inspiration for that music, and now God has used that same music to heal another generation of Mamaindê kids.



The Power of Music

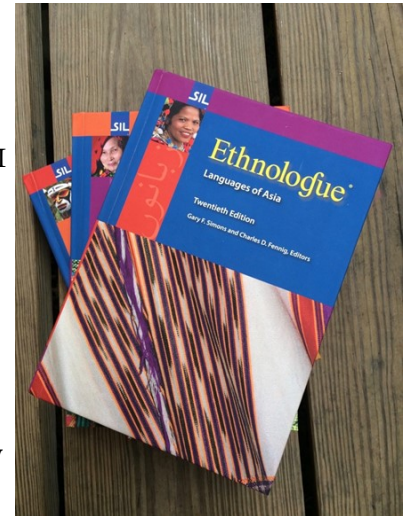


Training missionaries in the Amazon

The reason I was in Brazil and able to visit the Mamaindê was to lead a workshop in Manaus, a city of 2 million people on the banks of the Amazon river. Novas Tribos, another mission agency working among indigenous peoples, invited me to lead a workshop on community based language development. This is a methodology that I've put together to serve multilingual minority communities that are undergoing the loss of their traditional language, and to help those serving them make appropriate ministry decisions. The 20 Brazilian missionaries in Manaus, who work among 8 different tribal groups, were motivated and grateful for the training, and are already making plans for future trainings.

Ethnologue 2020

As you may remember, one of my new roles is general editor of the Ethnologue. It is the most authoritative catalogue of the world's languages and is published by SIL. In February I spent 2 weeks with the Ethnologue team in Dallas to finalize the preparations for this year's edition. The new version went public on February 21, the International Mother Language Day. Check it out at this site www.ethnologue.com, and discover how many languages there are in the world today.



On the Homefront

Julie continues with her very part time teaching job at the local community college. She teaches 2 remedial math classes to help students increase their math skills in order to qualify for college-level math. She also babysits Ari twice a week so Dana can also work. Diego's parents, Alan and Lucilia Vogel, are on furlough from Brazil and are also getting in some much needed grandparent time, and Lucilia is also helping with the babysitting.

Please see our other short letter with Rutti's exciting news.

Thank you all for your investment in our lives, both past and present, whether it's continuing to remember the Mamaindê or to say a prayer for our current daily activities. We are grateful to you. And we are grateful to the One whose resurrection we will celebrate soon.

Dave and Julie Eberhard

Addresses:

Home

102 Berry Patch Dr.
Wilmore, KY 40390
Email: dave-julie.eberhard@sil.org

Headquarters (for gifts)

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

Dave: 859-351-8455 Julie: 859-797-2299

Our Facebook Ministry Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/473137816404518/>

(for online gifts) <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/41C8A5>

Please include a separate note indicating, "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Dave and Julie Eberhard, Account # 222369