

# SHARP NEWS

June 2017

## Book Begins

Last year when we talked with the old timers who went “to the ends of the earth” in the 1950s, we talked with people who went “at all costs”. Some of their colleagues were killed by Indians, shot by rebels, died in rivers, bitten by snakes, tortured, lost in jungles, hungry. So many more could have died of deprivation, strange illnesses, or been murdered by those who feared and opposed them. Some were within a hairs breadth of meeting their Maker. They *knew*, definitely *knew* these realities



These realities profoundly impacted Larry when he went to give classes in Australia in February – to people working in one of the world’s most risky places! Different era – same commitment – at all costs! *Please pray* for Larry as he writes the book God has laid on his heart – telling what it took then, and what it will take tomorrow — to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world in what we say and what we do!

- ◆ Christ’s love compels us . . . he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves. *II Corinthians 5:13-15*
- ◆ I eagerly hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death . . . for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. *Philippians 1:20-21*



Vicki with her Biederman-side siblings in May in WA

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Larry, Vicki and Tammy in Brazil, May 2017, for annual conference.

## Back to Brazil

We were incredibly honored and happy to return to Brazil in May to help celebrate the Brazilian organization under which we served from 1972-1993. Larry had served as president our last 5 years there, thus the invitation to join the “festa” and share our memories. The Belém-based organization is now directed by a godly Brazilian man. The large missionary group of the past is considerably diminished and we see this as a good thing. The Brazilian church is equipped to serve their communities and the world!

## Baumann’s Battle

While in Brazil, we had lunch with Martin and Susanne Baumann. We remembered together a near tragic event – an example of the fragile thread of life as mentioned in the first paragraph, page 1.

The Baumanns were alone on a jungle station and Martin was very sick. The day which is forever etched in our minds had Larry on the radio in the capital city (he was president at the time) trying to talk to Susanne. The static was so bad he could not hear the answer to his question, “Shall I send the plane to get Martin?” He was referring to the small Wycliffe plane. He tried and tried to hear the response, and finally in desperation said, “If you want the plane, tap the microphone.” Seconds later he heard three faint taps. The plane was deployed immediately with a missionary nurse aboard.

After flying four hours each way, the plane returned to Belém at dusk with Martin and Susanne. He was rushed to the hospital where the doctor gave a grim prognosis. Martin had both malaria and hepatitis; the latter of which had shut down his liver for 9 days. By God’s amazing grace and providential touch, Martin survived. He and Susanne raised three children, planted two self-supporting churches and numerous house churches among poor settlements during the 26 years since this amazing story! Praise God!



Martin & Susanne Baumann, colleagues in Brazil, from Switzerland.

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