

Beyond Devotional - Week 6

Greg Johnson is a former member of Brazos Pointe and is currently an IMB missionary in South America with his wife, Savannah, and their three kids. The following is an update on how God is working on the mission field.

*14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" **Romans 10:14-15***

When the *Naka come downriver to our town, they usually stay anywhere from one week to one month. They come to receive money from the government, for medical care, food supplies, etc. They live full-time in the jungle — some of them a two-week journey by canoe. There is a Naka *balsa* (floating structure), where they all anchor their canoes. It is more fascinating than we can imagine, more difficult to “picture” than we can describe. They wash their clothes in the river, and hang them up all over the canoes to dry. They fish and sleep and eat and even birth their babies on these canoes (both in their travel upriver, and during their stay.) But this *balsa* — this floating house — is their “meeting place.” It is continually filled with people, a revolving door, as it were, of Naka families.

For over three years now, we met every Saturday morning in the home of *Antônio, a Naka believer. He is the one who has been pushing those who attend to pay close attention to the stories and songs. He has been the one to instigate conversations that deal with the belief in God alone, rather than the other religions and cults represented in our town. This past week, he invited Greg to the *balsa* for our study, **“so many more Naka would have the chance to hear the stories.”**

This past Saturday was the first study on the *balsa*. Our family carefully balanced on thin, wet logs to cross from the bank to the floating house. The canoes were covered in laundry and filled with curious eyes. A few minutes after we arrived, the main room began to fill. Naka adults who had never been to a study “in town,” sat ready to hear what Greg had to say. We counted fifteen adults, and just as many children — most of them completely new faces.

To put it mildly, we are ecstatic about this opportunity and the potential it has. In some ways, this opportunity makes us feel as though we are starting over — with very few who have ever heard the name of Jesus, and most of whom cannot read or write. But in a way only God could orchestrate, that’s part of the beauty of doing stories at the *balsa* — Antônio can work with Greg and help translate the stories into the Naka language.

Names have been changed to protect the Johnsons and their work

Greg & Savannah Johnson – IMB Missionaries