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## Jungle News

June 2019

News from **The Cocama Project**

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*Kyle, Alissa and little Elizabeth Pean.*

The month of June always reminds us of our first trip to the Amazon Jungles of Northern Peru. It was June of 2013 when a small group from our church made their way to the Cocama village of 9 de Octubre on the mighty Rio Maranon. It was there that we met a young man, Kyle Pean, who was working as a missionary intern during the summer months. Within a few weeks of that trip we began to work toward finalizing retirement so we could move into this jungle village. It is impossible to recall every noteworthy event that has happened over these past six years in a newsletter, but it is worth trying to recall the major events that have occurred and give our amazing God the credit, recognition and glory for what He has done and continues to do among the indigenous tribal peoples of the Amazon Jungle.

After additional visits to the village of 9 de Octubre in 2013 we were able to agree with the village on a plan to build floating boat docks. This was our first real attempt at building relationships with a people that was generally suspicious, even afraid, of us, the strange-looking outsiders.

In early 2014 we were able to found the non-profit ministry and named it ***The Cocama Project***. Later that same year when retirements were finalized we moved into the village, built boat docks as promised and moved into a one-room hut on a property we had purchased that adjoined the village.

By March of 2015 our one-room school house was completed and we began to teach English, Bible lessons and some other classes as the villagers requested. They were eager to learn and we happily accommodated. Relationships continued to develop. It was in late 2015 that our second building was completed and it was large enough to have larger facilities for teaching. That same year we saw several of our villagers commit to becoming Christians and had a number of baptisms in the Rio Maranon.

By 2016 we had already had two pastor training classes for river pastors from nearby villages. The first was a success and word got out, so much so that our second had so many new attendees that we could hardly get them in the classroom. A new, much larger building was constructed with a bigger place to teach as well as rooms for the pastors to sleep. A kitchen was constructed and village women hired and trained to cook for the visiting pastors. The pastor training project was growing so fast we could hardly keep up with it.

The year 2017 brought several additional projects. Children's projects included purchasing and initiating a library with books of Bible stories in Spanish and providing school supplies for the poorest of village children. Water projects included multiple attempts at providing clean water for the village. And medical projects included setting up a medicine room at our Mission Outpost and assisting with training of villagers on medicines and treatment of medical issues.

By 2018 our attendance at our Pastor training classes had grown from a few in the beginning to pastors coming in from four and five days away, covering over five hundred miles of river. By the end of 2018 we had added additional pastors from tribes near Brazil, making our "miles of river" measurement obsolete. Our best estimate at that time was that our pastors receiving training represented a land area of approximately fifty thousand square miles of jungle. God's plan to reach out to the tribes of the Amazon was unfolding like nothing we could have ever imagined in June of 2013.

So here we are in June of 2019. We have had our first pastor training of the year and have two more planned. Our village has clean water as a result of the water project. The children are now reading the library books, have paper, pencils and school supplies they never before had and are learning to manipulate iPads and tablets that Marcie has secured to teach with. Our relationships with our village have grown to the point village leaders have officially declared us to be citizens of the Cocama village of 9 de Octubre. We have new buildings nearing completion including a bunkhouse for our USA visitors and a home for our young missionary family, the Peans, when they move in later next year.

**Ahhhhhhhhh - the Peans.** Who would have ever guessed that six years ago we would also meet the young man who would eventually marry a like-minded missionary lady, Alissa, and they would together commit to moving into our Mission Outpost to begin working with the indigenous peoples of the Peruvian Amazon Jungle. This past Sunday Kyle was ordained and together Kyle and Alissa were commissioned by the West End Baptist Church in Industry Texas. They will be spending about a year in Costa Rica in an intensive language studies course for Spanish and then will be joining Marcie and me in the jungle as permanent residents. We have said many times it is an amazing thing to see first-hand what God is doing in this place. And when we look back over these past few years not only do we see the progress, but we see where our amazing God was putting his people in place to work His plan from the very first time we ever set foot in this jungle in June of 2013.

We already have plans for four pastor training sessions on 2020 with the involvement of six stateside churches and multiple individuals. Please continue to pray for and support **The Cocama Project**, the Peans, the river pastors, our village, our children and for all that our incredible, amazing God is doing in this remote area



our children and for all that our incredible, amazing God is doing in this remote area of the world. And may God richly bless you for continuing to love your neighbors in the Peruvian Amazon Jungle.

That Others May Know Him,  
Sam and Marcie  
John 17:3



*Kyle and Alissa give testimonies and commit to serving as missionaries during their commissioning on June 31, 2019.*



*Members of Kyle and Alissa's home church as well as many visitors and pastors surround and pray for Kyle and Alissa as they begin their lives as missionaries, committing to loving their God, loving their neighbors and, in doing so, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

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