AMAZON VISION MINISTRIES
EST. 2002

Bringing the hope of Christ to the West Amazon Basin.

A VISION BORN ON THE AMAZON

A story of vision, obedience, and a people still waiting

Nearly twenty-five years ago, while serving as Pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Gainesville, Florida – a strong family of faith – I stepped from a small boat into the shallow waters of a remote village in the western Amazon Basin. I had come to Brazil with my son, John, and my friend, Joe Fincher. We had enjoyed the adventure of fishing those extraordinary waters, but God had something far greater in mind.

We asked permission to enter the village. As we walked, people began to gather. Through a translator, we shared the Gospel with them.

I watched my son tell several villagers about Jesus Christ– people who had never heard His name. Before they prayed to receive Christ, they asked if they should first put on shirts. That simple act of reverence touched me deeply.

I left that village, but that village never left me.

On the flight home, God began pressing a *vision* into my heart:

"Penetrate the West Amazon Basin with the Gospel."

The questions came quickly. How could we safely reach isolated villages? How could we build relationships rather than simply make visits? How could we share the Gospel, train indigenous leaders, provide medical, dental and optical care, and establish a ministry capable of returning again and again?

My friend, Joe Fincher, also embraced the vision, and together, we co-founded **Amazon Vision Ministries.**

Amazon Vision Ministries was born.



At the time, God also gave me a Scripture that became deeply personal. In my Bible, it remains highlighted, underlined, and dated 2002:

"Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord."

Psalm 102:18

What was then simply a **vision**, has become a remarkable story of God's grace. Since those early days – in which Westside Baptist played such an important supportive role – thousands of people throughout the Amazon Basin have heard the Gospel and now praise the Lord! Villages have been reached. Believers have been discipled. Indigenous leaders have been trained. Churches and ministries have been strengthened. Both medical and compassionate care have opened doors.

Teams have traveled thousands of miles to carry the hope and love of Jesus Christ to people who might otherwise remain beyond the reach of traditional ministry.

Now, a new generation is being prepared. Students are being trained to serve, worship is rising in Portuguese and Ticuna, and we are continuing to reach new villages.



The story is still being written– one river, one village, one life at a time



TWO QUESTIONS I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN–

Perhaps the words that remain most deeply embedded in my heart came from the people themselves. After receiving Christ, one villager looked at me and asked:

"Why did you wait so long to come?"

Another man had traveled by canoe for **three days** just to find us. His question was equally unforgettable:

"When will you come to my people?"

THESE QUESTIONS STILL CALL TO US.

The Amazon remains vast. The journey remains challenging, and there are still villages where the name of Jesus is scarcely known.

The vision God placed in my heart decades ago has become a movement carried by an effective Board of Directors, a passionate Director of Operations–Richard Jennings–faithful Brazilian leaders, devoted churches, committed mission teams, supportive donors, and many loving hands and hearts.

The story is still being written – one river, one village, one leader, one life at a time.



"There are still people waiting... will you come?"

25 YEARS OF AMAZON VISION

Amazon Vision Ministries celebrates its 25th Anniversary!

OCTOBER 7, 2027

First Baptist Church • Daytona Beach, Florida

Learn more and make your reservation at AmazonVisionMinistries.org

THE VISION EXPANDED

In 2019, my wife, Ingrid, and I launched Global Missions 365 to extend that same passion for the Gospel across the world.

Today, GM365 serves through 18 partnerships in 13 countries, connecting churches, leaders, missionaries and resources to help reach people with the hope of Christ.

Amazon Vision Ministries remains our longest-standing and primary partnership – a reminder that a God-given vision can begin in one village and continue multiplying for **generations**.

GLOBAL MISSIONS 365
Everywhere. Everyday. Everyone.

GlobalMissions365.org

Dr. Gary Crawford
Co-Founder, Amazon Vision Ministries
Pastor Emeritus, Westside Baptist Church
Founder & Executive Director
Global Missions 365
Gary@globalmissions365.org

