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Special Report

So much life-changing news, we had to issue a never before special report about our struggle in Satan's war on marriage, encouraging a persecuted church, and our efforts to revive a dead church.

Those who drink the water that I give will never be thirsty again (John 4:14).

Dear Readers:

1 Much was done during March. To begin, Living Water 414 is now a registered non-profit organization in Guyana. This success will increase safety as well as the good that we will be able to do (keep reading).

Cohabitation: A major problem in Guyana is “living home” or cohabitation. Its widespread practice in the most remote villages stems from the difficult process for especially impoverished citizens as well as other reasons.

The first requirement for marriage is a birth certificate, which is typically received several months after a live birth. However, in a world without computers and reliable mail, birth certificates can easily be submitted incorrectly, lost or avoided altogether. Many adults without birth certificates reason (incorrectly) that they don't need a piece of paper to make a commitment, so they choose cohabitation. And so it is not uncommon to find a couple raising a family for years with no birth certificate or marriage.

The other two requirements for marriage is banns—the public posting of the ceremony for at least three Sundays—and the role of the Marriage Officer. Without all three requirements, a legal marriage cannot take place anywhere in the Republic of Guyana.

To be clear, God opposes fake marriage in any form (Hebrews 13:4), and we uphold the importance of biblical, legal marriage. There are no shortcuts, but we have found ways to expedite the process for citizens.

With the registration of Living Water 414 in Guyana, unprecedented advances are possible with the ability to appoint our own Marriage Officers in the church and the potential to assign a Marriage Superintendent. It is technical and lengthy to describe in writing, but we can remove years of red tape for citizens wanting to marry. This news is especially good for the poor, who live in the remote villages.

Campaigns: Because of our October findings, it was crucial to return to Monkey Mountain. James Pendley is the Missions Deacon for the Glencoe Church of Christ in Alabama; Derrick Johns preaches for the Maraikabai Church of Christ in Guyana. Both men accompanied me to Monkey Mountain to encourage the church, to give direction and leadership, to confront false teachers and rumors, to prevent further assault to God's people, and to ensure no further immorality was present. This congregation was very close to dying, but a few dedicated members remained who will not yield to Satan.

Extensive evangelistic work was done in Culvert City and Lethem. A team of 10-12 US Christians and just as many Guyanese Christians conducted personal studies and taught lessons with 21 baptisms and 18 restorations. A medical campaign was also conducted in the villages of Yupukari and Katoka that yielded another three baptisms, one of which was a captain that Jerry Davidson and I studied with last summer.

Following the campaigns, I stayed in Lethem to teach at GCU. My assigned courses were "Sermon Preparation and Delivery," which were reportedly among the most needed subjects for these students who are preparing to graduate. Check out www.LivingWater414.org for letters from students. Three additional church members were restored during my work there.

March's trip proved in many ways to be one of my most productive Guyana visits.

Wakenaam Island: Neil Richey preaches for the Piedmont Road Church of Christ in Marietta, Georgia, and Scott Ihle is the Missions Deacon there. Both men joined me for this eight day, seven night exploratory crusade. We slept in hammocks under a house, bathed using a bucket and baptized in the Essequibo River where catfish grow as big as a man. I am grateful for their dedication and for the service in the Lord's vineyard during that week.

At least 30 personal studies were conducted with non-Christians mostly. Three devotions were held in the morning with a series of classes on the Book of Ephesians in the afternoon. 10 sermons were presented; two each night. While we were disheartened that only three Christians remained, the Lord added three souls to the church during our crusade, in effect doubling the size of the congregation.

Funds were given to Brother Andrew Rampadarath, who preaches for the Good Hope Church of Christ, so that he could travel to the island for the next 7+ Sundays to assist the worship of this struggling church. Sunday, April 24 was the first worship in a couple of years; 13 people were present, including the six island Christians.

A visit to Wakenaam Island is planned for July 9-16. Read the May – June 2016 for details. Send questions to david@LivingWater414.org or call 859-314-8638.

David & Philena

Send funds payable to "Living Water 414" to:

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