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July – August 2017
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Previous Highlights

- Teach at Guyana Christian University
 - Minor Prophets
 - Sermon Prep & Homiletics
- Specific visits in Lethem
- The Importance of Preacher Training
- Preview of July/Aug trip
 - July 28 – Aug 8, 2017
- June objectives
- Thank you

Current Highlights

- Teaching trip at GCU
 - Success
 - Suspension (temporary)
 - Sickness
- Campaigns in Moruca & Wakenaam
 - Moruca church strengthened
 - Wakenaam church stirred to action
 - Two baptisms

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

Dear Readers:

Our efforts at times seem like rain droplets in a stream, but we do see ripples beyond the water's edge. You are a part of us, and as summer closes, we have much to say.

The June teaching trip to Guyana Christian University in Lethem was good in several ways. The students who assembled from some distance were eager to learn. All are relatively young in the faith, many of them under five years spiritually. Their basic knowledge of biblical things slowed us at times, but such is the nature of teaching, especially in a classroom. Add to that, God begins with each of us where we are and at our level, and he leads us through the help of others to where he wants us.

The goals outlined in the previous newsletter were completed. The students have their new Thompson Chain Reference Bibles, which provides an instant library wherever they carry their Bibles. They struggled through my Sermon Preparation class as it was plowing new ground for them; but they persevered and presented a fine 10-minute lesson that they had personally developed. One student, Joseph Adventura (picture next page), did especially well. His inquisitive nature and ability to grasp the instruction proved advantageous as he was able to help guide other students in their understanding. Any teacher can't help but to smile when their students become guides and teachers to others. And to think that before March 2016, he was not a Christian. We are thankful for him.

Only seven of the nine students who enrolled in September 2016 returned for class. Time would reveal that the wife of one of those students, Leroy Benjamin from Moruca Village, is expecting their third baby and is hospitalized until the September due date. With that hospital some distance away from Leroy's home, he abstained from classes to care for his two small boys. For the other student who did not return, Blanford Simon, it is unknown at this time why he did not return. Some have speculated as they did in Leroy's case. But like Leroy, we couldn't know until we visited him in person.

An important aside: I would like to visit Blanford Simon's village, Paramakatoi and neighboring Monkey Mountain. **God's people are actively laboring, and they need encouragement; Satan is vigorously working at every turn, and he needs opposing. Such a visit is estimated to be at least \$900 to \$1200,** which has prevented our visit to date. While there, we would see Blanford and his family. His father, Harold Simon, graduated last term, and we would like to see Blanford finish his studies, too.

Fleeing sickness: Two students became ill during my classes. When the second man became nauseous, I handed my daughter and best friend Lysol spray reminding them of the need to practice good basic hygiene. But hours later when both students began coughing blood, when the physician's report for one student mentioned a possibility of TB, and when the other student needed to be rushed to the hospital with cramping and shortness of breath, I immediately quarantined those girls to their apartment charging them to begin packing their bags. We left on the first flight of the second day for Georgetown, the same morning they were to conduct their second VBS. While I doubted then that we were in danger, the chance was too great to avoid precaution. In Georgetown, we were reassured no TB shot was needed, and we returned home safely. The girls did one VBS the preceding Saturday with nearly 50 present.



Morning devotion at Guyana Christian University



Joseph Adventura, a promising GCU student, leads songs during a Sunday night home gathering.

We visited two areas during July/Aug that resulted in a baptism in each location. Our annual summertime visits in Moruca Village are helping to strengthen and ground that new church. I am thankful that the family I studied with and baptized two years ago are still faithful and active in the congregation. On Wakenaam Island, Gene Johnson, an educator, school administrator and former elder in the US, helped me to systemize some steps to stir their hearts to action and to take ownership in their future.

David & Philena

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