

## November–December 2019

Volume 6

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## **Previous Highlights**

- Companion Church Ministry
  - o Culvert City Church of Christ & Bon Fim Church of Christ (Brazil)
  - o St. Ignatius, Nappi & Parashara Village congregations
- Meeting with Preachers (Coastal & Rupununi) o Discuss 2020 work
- Assess further needs

## **Current Highlights**

- Completed six years in foreign missions!
- 2020 specific goals
  - o Focus on growing congregations from within
  - o 4 Ts of Evangelism: Teach, Train, build Trust & Turn over
- 2019 expenses & 2020 budget discussed.
- Final thoughts after 27 Guyana trips.





## Dear Readers:

We are already approaching the end of our sixth year in foreign mission work. By this time next year, we will be completing 20 years in full-time ministry in the Lord's kingdom! We are greatful to be a part



of the Lord's work, and for each and every lesson and struggle. In all of it, we see God's handiwork and His gracious blessings.

The 2020 year will witness two things. First, is the fact that we are changing people's lives, and I appreciate every Bible study and baptism in Guyana. I also thank God for the opportunity to lead and equip Guyanese Christians, enabling them to have successful studies and to baptize their neighbors. This is success in ministry!

Second, we have our work cut out for us, in that we are continuing the work without our longtime missions friend, Jerry Davidson, who retired in 2018. Working with him was remarkable, but nothing in this life lasts forever. And, I am not alone in this great endeavor; several are involved in various ways with this rewarding and necessary work in Guyana. We are all on the same team, and I am here to assist in any way possible.

To that end, our goal for next year will be to strengthen Christians in Guyana, devoting attention to grounding congregations, mentoring preachers, and facilitating evangelism within the local groups of saints, beginning with assemblies in the Lethem Town area, as mentioned in previous newsletters, and the Meerzorg Church of Christ, on Wakenaam Island, which disbanded after the death of their elderly preacher, and then revived, in 2016. Now, we are involved in the efforts of many congregations. As God opens doors, we can branch out from there. We plant and water; God provides the increase.



The 20/20 vision for this next year is to focus on **teaching** Christians, **training** ministers, building **trust** through Companion Churches and **turning over** the responsibility to local persons. The preachers, who met in November at the Rupununi Eco Hotel, expressed apprecaition for the foreign involvement and many stood to share of their circumstances and dedication to the Lord.



**One-time donation help:** During the past two years, the Living Water 414 budget was just under \$28,000 per month. This funded three US ministers, with foreign campaigns and stateside travels, and supported 26 Guyanese ministry families who worked with their local church in Amerindian villages as well. It also provided for administrative and accounting costs, a necessary part for work of this size. Nearing the end of 2019, we're feeling a deep pinch, with a \$10,500 shortfall. If you can help in a large or small way, we will be able to stay on target and keep the upcoming January 2020 crusade and meetings that are already on the agenda.

**Monthly donation help:** Our 2020 budget is down to \$17,700 per month, funding eleven Guyanese preachers and myself, including my salary and travels, along with the administrative and accounting costs as before. To cover the growth in our workload, and the 36% reduction in personal support, we need \$900 more per month. Can you help? If your congregation would like to help with our mission work, please call and allow me to make a personal presentation of our work.

Remember, no one is paid to be a minister; rather, they are paid so they **can** minister. In other words, these Guyanese stipends buy a man's time away from his job or farm so that he is available for labor in God's field and yet be able to simultaneously support his family. These ministers are the backbone of this Guyanese work, and future growth will come as a result from their labors and leadership.



When Brother Davidson suggested I was about to enter the best work of my life, I readily committed to Guyana for a five-year minimum. Now, after six years and 27 trips, the field is white and ready for harvest.

Will you help us, please, as we share the good news that Jesus came to save souls?

**David and Philena** 

