



“Then the King will say, ‘for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you have clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”

Matthew 25:35-36

November, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Time has passed by swiftly and once again, families are getting together to celebrate Thanksgiving, to give Father God thanks for His unfailing love and his provision of our needs. While we celebrate, others face hard times. We tend to question, including myself, why there is loss of loved ones, loss of job, and illnesses. It is comforting to bring to mind Isaiah 41:13, *“For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, Do not fear, I will help you.”*

It was shocking and distressing to learn that on October 28, 2018, a gunman barged into the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh’s Squirrel Hill neighborhood, fatally shooting 11 people, wounded six others, including four police officers. How very sad that this act of hate was done in a house of worship. Our Lord said to his disciples, *“This is my commandment: love one another, just as I have loved you.”* John 15:12. We are called to pray for the care and comfort of those that mourn and those with illnesses.

As we come to the end of 2018, the Board of GO and I give Father God thanks as we share His continued blessings upon this mission, and as we follow his command to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Here is a brief update.

Ministry of Communication provides an Internet Hub

GO is blessed that the Guyanese Ministry of Communication is providing at no cost to GO, an Internet access Hub at our new building. With this access, we will enhance our current class curricula and provide free Internet access to the community. Ministry of Communication Official, Travis Spellin, met with Anneil Budhu, GO’s Math and Computer Tablet teacher during the initial visit.



24 Years of Friendship



In September 2018, Ruth spoke to the Hopkins Rotary Club, hosted by Dave and Sri-suda Arneson. This family has supported Guyanese Outreach and its mission for over 24 years. Their generosity helps GO to keep the doors open and in addition, ensures that the children receive healthy snacks before lessons. We are grateful to ALL of our donors over the years. Your blessings have helped achieve our vision to improve the lives of those we touch in Guyana.

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Education Update

Education is the best gift we can give our children. Assessment of public school grades before/after attending our classes show dramatic improvement: public school grades improve by at least one grade (i.e., D to C). Primary school students use our popular computer tablets to learn math and reading, and basic computer skills.

Our Math classes continue to grow. What an opportunity for our next generation to get a solid educational foundation. We are planning to expand to other schools in the nearby villages but to do so, we seek your help in getting another 50 tablets.

We are excited to have our second part-time teacher from the public primary school join our staff. We will hire others as we add more classes. Now you can experience our Youth Learning Centre programs yourself! Visit our video web page: www.GuyaneseOutreach.org/videos and sit-in on our Computer Tablet and Functional Literacy Classes.



Thanks to your continued faithfulness and support, the children continue to receive a healthy snack each day before lessons. This year, the need for a new and more far-reaching feeding program has developed. The government sugar estate recently closed, leaving hundreds of people without jobs. Assistance from the Guyana government is not like in the US. Poor families are struggling for basic food. GO wants to be part of the solution. We are planning a community feeding program for the very poor. We need YOUR help to make this a reality. As you can imagine, it takes significant resources to purchase, prepare and deliver meals on a regular basis. But we cannot stand-by while our brothers and sisters go hungry.



As we approach the Christmas season, Pastor Rakesh is preparing a live presentation of *"The Story of Baby Jesus"* at the local primary school. It is exciting that parents gave permission for their children to attend and participate in the program. One student even wrote a poem: *"He was born in a manger, He came from above, He was no danger, He was full of love."*

Community Affairs

The Rotary Club meets in our building each Thursday night. GO is proud of our collaboration to promote the education of our youth. GO hosts the Rotary's Spelling Bees and other special events in our building. This relationship goes back a long ways. We are grateful for this outstanding collaboration.

Elderly villagers continue to collect their monthly pension books at the GO building.

2018 • A Year of Big Changes

The Board and I are extremely grateful to you and our partners in sacrificially giving through prayers, labor and financial blessings. Since the very early years of GO, Discover Church has been a primary supporter and Hope Lutheran Church continues to bless GO. To all of our partners, friends and families, ALL of your help makes us successful, in ways too numerous to mention. Father God knows you by name.

2018 saw the completion of GO's new building. As I reflect, I am led to give you a recap. It all started with Mark Olson working with the Board to design a concrete-based building plan. Mark went to Guyana and worked side-by-side with the carpenters, construction workers, and volunteers to make sure the concrete met specifications. At that point, we were very short on funds to complete the building. My heart was very concerned, however the Board and I decided to proceed by faith, believing that funds would come in for each construction phase.

A week before I left for Guyana, in April 2016, and as construction of the first floor was just beginning, the Lord led me to call my very dear friends, Jerry Blackwell and his wife Tiffany. I wanted to say goodbye and give him an update of the building's progress. During our conversation, Jerry realized my great concern in not having the funds to complete just the first floor. The Lord touched his heart in a very special way. Jerry and Tiffany committed a very sizable financial gift that allowed us to complete not just the first floor, but the ENTIRE THREE STORY BUILDING! The Persaud family and friends here in the Twin Cities also played a big role by helping with labor and costs to paint the interior and exterior of our beautiful building.

The mysteries and ways of our Lord continue to amaze me. I continue to better understand that my ways are not His ways. Guyanese Outreach is grateful beyond words for the Blackwell's generosity. We are also grateful to ALL OF YOU that support this mission with your regular financial gifts and special ways of laboring. The year ahead will see many new opportunities to expand into the community. Your continued prayers and support will make 2019 an even bigger year for Guyanese Outreach and the less fortunate that we serve in Guyana!

The Guyanese Outreach Youth Learning Centre

As you look at the pictures on the next page in the transformation of our "Tent" into this beautiful 3-story concrete building, be in awe at the work of God.



2016



2017



2018



GO is a tax-exempt and approved 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Please pray and seek our Lord as you continue to help us serve in the mission field. His command. "Go ye therefore and teach all nation..."

The Board and I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with many Blessings.

Ruth