



*"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,'" Matt. 25: 35-36*

May, 2006

Dear GO Partners:

The Board and I would like to give you an update of the developments of our Mission in Guyana. I was in Guyana for two months in February and March. John Olson, GO's President joined me for two weeks. It was a blessing to spend Easter at home and celebrate the Risen Christ with family.

I am excited to report that GO and STEM (Short Term Evangelical Mission) had a very successful initial mission partnership. STEM team #429 from Kabekona Community Church in Laporte, Minnesota, was in Guyana in March. The team was engaged in a balance of evangelism, construction and mercy/service/creative ministries. It was a large team and Alison, one of the team leaders said it best: "A large group of thirty one, plus three STEM leaders, posed some logistical challenges, but also provided the manpower to serve in many different ways during our short time in Guyana."



Group of 34 in front of Votech

In our last letter, we shared that the Lord called us to serve three churches in need: Pastor Rishi's Full Gospel at # 48 village, Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Skeldon, and St. Margaret's Anglican Church, in Corriverton. Alison reports that the team "took part in Sunday morning services at all three churches and also in various weeknight events. Pastor Rishi's church provided us with opportunities for evangelism at # 48 and also at 50 and 51 villages where we went prayer walking and invited people to an open air meeting that night. A young man and quite a crowd of children came forward in response to Pastor Rishi's invitation."

Alison reports "the team's participation was much appreciated, especially by the Anglican church which has no musical instrument of any kind. Church members welcomed the team's testimonies and special music at the Sunday morning service, and their drama following Wednesday evening's "Station of the Cross." A staff member publicly thanked the team for their dynamic and moving contribution, and their good example of lively faith."

#### **NEW HOME IS AN ANSWER TO PRAYERS**

Veronica Persaud of Corriverton has been struggling most of her life. Things got even tougher when her husband died in 2001. She found herself alone and unable to support her five children. She had to send two of them to Linden to live with their aunt. Veronica took up selling by the roadside to earn an income. In December 28, 2005, she was selling on the roadside when she received a message that her house was burning down. One of the mattresses had caught on fire. According to Veronica, "if my children were sleeping on it at the time, I would have lost all three." The house completely burned down.

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Mother and Children

Veronica cleans the play-ground at the Corriverton Primary School and rents a very tiny home. Not too long ago, she went to GO's offices and asked for help. She left by saying "thank you for anything that comes over, I will accept. I leave everything in the hands of God."

GO was touched by this woman's spirit. Over the years, she has struggled to make ends meet and to raise her children. Even though her life has not been easy, she tried to maintain her faith. She told us "I have told myself that as long as there is life, there is hope and someday I will work to build my house, but as this time in my life, I could not."



House In Progress

We are grateful and thank STEM and Kabekona Community Church. Veronica now has a brand new house. The team built a two-bedroom home in just 7 days.



This was a major project. The team brought carpentry tools and a generator provided electricity. It seems as though Our Lord multiplied the time for the team since the team was also able to build a table and a bench for this woman.

The entire village was aware of this project. Many looked to see if the project would be completed. The team worked long hours in the very hot sun. It was a time of not only building a wooden house, but building relationships with neighbors and children. Many seeds were planted.

It was a joy as the neighborhood witnessed the completed house. What a testimony the STEM team left! Veronica is very grateful and continues to pray for the team and the people of Kabekona Community Church for raising the funds and to build her a home. She said “the team has spared me from shame.” Her children now have happy faces. Thank you STEM and Kabekona Church.



Completed house

Team members also engaged in scraping, scrubbing, sanding, puttying and painting at both the Lutheran and Anglican Churches. The team also brought a puppet stage and puppets. Puppet shows were done in several primary schools. On Saturday morning, a puppet show was performed at the local market place. It drew a lot of attention. The girls on the team performed their puppet show and danced to Christian worship music. This type of dancing, as unto the Lord, was new to many people and was much appreciated. Another puppet team went to two communities to teach basic dental hygiene and hand out toothbrushes and toothpaste.

We had a VBS on Sunday afternoon that brought approximately 200 children from several churches. The team provided a variety of materials that taught them of the love of Jesus. They also did many crafts and it was a joyful experience for the children.

The team also participated in our children’s after school phonics reading program.



VBS Children

It was a joy and a blessing to have the team participate in our community-wide Abstinence Rally. The message was to “abstain before marriage as the Lord has commanded us.” The team participated in dramas and a dance. Their presence and participation was a wonderful contribution to the rally. The rally drew a large crowd.



Abstinence Rally

GO is most grateful to STEM and the Kabekona church for their sacrifice and ministry to the 3 churches and the people in Corriverton. We look forward to future teams.

We kindly ask you to pray for the Northwestern College team of 12 people that will be arriving in Guyana on May 16, 2006. They will be there for 12 days. Please pray for their safety, health and the ministry as the Lord leads.

I now want to give you an UPDATE on the future of GO. Sometime ago we informed you that we have to vacate the buildings we have renovated with your help. The Ministry of Health informed us that we must vacate the GMO building on June 30, 2006. The GMO was previously a doctor's residence and 200 foreign doctors are expected in country. In addition, the Ministry of Education needs the Votech for more classroom space. We are looking at a building to rent until we can either get land to build or buy land with a building and renovate for classrooms.

John Olson and I tried to obtain land from the government. The Minister of Housing has designated the land we were hoping for as strictly house lots. Regional officials indicated to us that larger land sites (in the acres) are hard to find. This is causing us to rethink our building strategy. Perhaps of having one large building for all our current and future programs, we may want to look at several smaller and more inexpensive buildings but in multiple locations. If we opt for the available larger land sites currently available, we may be too far from the poor community that we are called to serve.

The cost of one large building on one site is estimated at \$350,000. Two smaller sites with existing buildings including renovation is approximately \$250,000 each. The search for sites continues and we also looking for interim rental facilities.

Now you may ask since you have to vacate and cannot find land, why not pack up and leave. We have prayerfully sought the Lord as to whether He wants us to continue this ministry. The words that came to me from 2 Tim. 2 and 5 "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

We believe the Lord wants us to keep on bearing fruits. He prunes so we can bear more fruits. I look upon the government wanting their buildings back as a blessing in disguise, however painful. When we have our own facility we can proclaim Jesus is Lord.

This is a time of "heavy testing," for the warfare is heavy. We have sown seeds and are reaping fruits beyond measure for 12 years. I believe The Lord is calling us to "Persevere" at such a time as this. **It is only our prayers that will tear walls down.** "Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jer. 33:3

We had humble beginnings. We started this mission under houses. The Lord blessed us with 2 facilities to teach sewing/crafts and computers along with distribution of humanitarian aid and two libraries. A few years ago we added our Abstinence Program because HIV/AIDS and STIs was the second highest in the Western Hemisphere. For 2 years, we are teaching literacy classes because functional illiteracy is high in Guyana.

My heart was touched and yours will be too, to watch our staff teach the children to read and write through the phonics program. The children's eagerness to learn is most touching. I met children 10-12 years old that cannot read. They have nothing to occupy themselves and their future is bleak. This reading program is not limited to our schools. The need is great and we have expanded into the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Streams of Power, Full Gospel and New Testament churches. In one of the reading programs, a mother is also learning to read along with her daughter. My heart looks forward to the day when we can have an adult literacy reading program.

GO provides the curriculum, teaching lessons, training of the teachers, and overall administration. We hope to expand this program to the entire region. We feel that if we can help this generation, then there will be hope for the next generation.

In Phase One our 15 teachers teach two classes per week, each class is 1.5 hours. Each teacher is paid a stipend equivalent of \$5 US per week. In Phase Two, each teacher's classes will increase to two and in Phase Three, we may need full time teachers.

We kindly ask families to help support our teachers. Your sacrifice will help us maintain this program that is so vital to the lives of the children and youth. Please help us to help them help themselves.

GO is at a turning point in its ministry in Guyana. There is a change in staff and the expansion of the after school literacy program in our affiliate churches has added a strain in our budget. Our emphasis also, is to work with the local churches and do more Evangelism.

The Board and I plead for your help. **We need your prayers and your financial support.** Maybe some of your gifting is fundraising or grant writing. We are very open to your suggestions or assistance. Please help us to fulfill the great commission to "Go therefore and teach all nations."

Blessed be the Name of the Lord. We give Him all Glory and Honor and Praise.

*Ruth B. Singh*