



*"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*

Dear friends and family,

This Thanksgiving, I am writing from Guyana. It's very hot and humid. Oh, how I wish you could send me some snow! I miss the beautiful changing of the leaves that only the Lord could gloriously paint in the changing of the seasons.

Thanksgiving, more importantly, is a time for family to get together to celebrate our blessings. We give God thanks for His goodness and grace, even though many of us suffer with illnesses, grief, and loss of income. In hard times, we are asked to "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication and with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. The peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7.

I am learning to be more disciplined through the Word of God as I continue to struggle with the pain of a right shoulder with no rotator's cuff. We all need to be comforted. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father of mercies and the God of all comforts." Cor. 2:3.

Friends and partners, thank you so very much for responding to my letter back in July 2016, when we presented a model of our dream building that would help to fulfill our calling.



As the building rises, so does my spirit. This building is a cornerstone of the vision that the Lord gave to me so many years ago. It has not been easy, but only through your prayers and financial gift has this vision become a reality.

On Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, Mark Olson and I arrived in Guyana. Prior to leaving Mark designed a building made of concrete and presented the design to the Guyanese Outreach(GO) Board for approval. Once the plans were approved he sent the plans to Guyana. With Mark's concrete expertise, our contractor Annoop's knowledge and skills, the two of them finalized the building plan that Mark sacrificially designed.



**Mark Olson and Annoop**



**Ruth helps to break ground**

I am blessed that my nephew, Pastor Denis Bagot, was able to spend six weeks helping oversee some of the construction. At my age and ill health, his help was a Godsend. It is a tremendous learning experience to purchase stones, sand and building materials. But before we broke ground, Pastor Denis Bagot dedicated the project unto the Lord. "For unless the Lord builds the house it is built in vain." Psalm 127:1



**Carpenters joined dedication**

I shared the history of GO, how our literacy and other programs are helping the community, and how this building will expand our ability to help our brothers and sisters.



**Walls Going Up**



**First Floor Done**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Level Going Up**



**Ruth with Annoop(the contractor) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**



**Education Center with Addition**



**Pouring Veranda Floor**



**View From Veranda**



**Latest View of Addition**

By early December, we will complete Phase One by pouring all concrete for all three floors. In this phase, the ground level will be completely finished, including a temporary apartment for the Ethiopian couple who will be working with us. In addition, the ground floor will continue to serve as a large meeting space, just like our former “tent.”

In the second phase, the middle floor will be finished. It will contain a computer lab and library for the community, provide housing for me and our couple in residence, and provide housing for visiting missionary teams. There will also be a veranda which will be a quiet area for teams to relax and enjoy ocean breezes.

**Finishing Phase Two will cost \$50,000.** We can cut some costs by having short-term mission teams assist us. Please let us know if you would like to help paint, finish interior and exterior walls, install electrical and IT wiring, install bathroom fixtures, or complete the veranda. We also need help to design, install and fund a solar panel system.

We are also in need of teachers to help design and customize curricula for our job skill classes, such as: How to Build a Web Page and other advanced IT skills. We want to help the community with chronic problems such as alcoholism, domestic abuse and violence, and teen suicide. We want to expand our teen functional literacy program to include adult literacy.

This building is a solid foundation upon which the local staff and future mission teams can reach out to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. As this building facilitates helping our brothers and sisters with their physical and emotional needs, our Home Church program reaches out so the Spirit can do its work.

This vision would not be possible without the partnership of churches from three continents: Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), and Emmanuel Lutheran Parish in Corriverton, Guyana, , Hebron Lutheran Church and Hopeful Lutheran Church(LCMC) in Hebron, Kentucky, Hope Lutheran Church in Minnesota, and of course the long standing support of GO from my home church, Discover Church in Minnesota.

Your individual contributions and participation is most important and makes all the difference. Our “tent” is large. We invite you and your church to join us and see the hand of God at work.

We have some additional good news. In my last letter, we were working on getting the visas for Girma and Selome Gutema. They are our Ethiopian couple who pledged to go to Guyana for three years to help this mission grow. We thank God that the visas were granted and we expect Girma to arrive on November 23 and Selome in early December.

Please continue to pray for this mission, and especially for Girma and Selome. Also, for Selome’s aged parents. What an inspiration and example to see this couple make a three-year commitment to GO as they follow the Spirit of our Lord, and enduring personal and family sacrifices.

The Board and I thank you for your continued faithfulness as we together seek to “Go therefore and teach all nations....” Matt. 28:19

If you can contribute to help finance Phase 2 of our building project you can do so online at <http://guyaneseoutreach.com/donate.html>. You can also send a check to: Guyanese Outreach, P.O. Box 48456, Minneapolis, MN 55448

We thank you with grateful hearts.



*(Guyanese Outreach is a tax-exempt and approved 501(c) (3) charitable organization.)*