

# Guyanese Outreach

December 2003

"Every good and perfect gift is from  
above coming down from the Father of Heavenly lights..." James 1:17



*Abstinence  
Program  
Staff*

As I entered the airport in Philadelphia en-route to Mpls. on Dec.2, and saw the beautifully decorated Christmas trees, I began to realize how grateful I was to be back on U.S. soil having been gone for over 4 months. I was nostalgic to get home in anticipation of celebrating the birth of the Christ Child as told in Isaiah 9:5-6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I am extremely grateful for your love, prayers and support while in Guyana. In my last letter, I said I was prepared to stay as long as it took to get the Abstinence program on a solid foundation. Well, it took four months and it was your love and prayers that sustained me through the many hard times. It was the longest time spent in any one trip to Guyana. Thank you for the many emails and also the cards of sympathy upon my mother's death.

## ABSTINENCE Update!

Early September, a team of three went from the U.S. to Guyana to help upgrade our staff's skills in teaching the Abstinence program. But before the team got there, the staff and I worked on every page of the curriculum. As a result of laying this technical foundation, things started to come together well during the team's visit. The team consisted of Pastor Reita Erickson who

focused on counseling, Beth Kackman a registered nurse, both from Cedar Valley Church and Rita Krueger of Brooklyn Park Lutheran Church, who has done extensive work as a volunteer at the Robbinsdale Women's Center.

---

All of the 56  
youth that were  
present made  
the pledge to  
abstain

---

This team sacrificed a week to be in Guyana, amidst the hot weather and high humidity. They did a wonderful job in giving our staff a model on how to teach the course in abstinence. While the team was there, we did a "pilot" three-session program. All of the 56 youth that were present made the pledge to abstain from sexual activities before marriage and fidelity after marriage. This is significant because reports project that 60% of Guyana's population is infected with STIs and 3-4 % is infected with the HIV/AIDS.



Guyanese Outreach  
PO Box 48456  
Minneapolis, MN  
55448  
Tel: 763-755-6847  
Fax: 763-757-2104  
guyanese.outreach@prodigy.net

Just a couple of weeks ago, we completed the first full 9-session course. It was awesome to feel the comfort level of the students in the small group setting while they expressed themselves. It is here where the learning takes place and character is being reshaped.

Many of the students are able to go home and talk with their parents on the subject of abstinence, sex and related issue that are traditionally not talked



*Abstinence Small Group*

about. It is touching to see the student's learning curve. Our prayer is that the abstinence program will save this generation and the future generation.

After the pilot program, I had to develop a very short course in counseling. This was primarily done to allow our staff and government worker-volunteers to be aware of and learn some of the very basic skills needed for effective counseling. We also found there is a great need to develop a program on drug and alcohol abuse. Students are learning that one bad decision can alter their entire future. There is a great need for evangelism and counseling of the youth. The Board and I encourage those of you that have a call for Missions, to contact Ruth at 763-755-6847 or Marilyn Nault at 763-425-0287.

I have had some awesome experiences of prayer counseling, one-on-one. Especially, with those grieving the loss of their loved ones and those stricken with the HIV/AIDS. It is both awesome and yet leaves one with sadness of what others go through in life without knowing our Lord Jesus. I am truly grateful and humbled to God to do His Kingdom work. This is only possible because of your sacrificial love to the Guyanese people.

Thank you for all of the materials you so graciously donated. The shipment of 23 crates finally arrived early Sept. We continue to be grateful to Brooklyn Park Lutheran Church, Hope Lutheran Church, Onan Corporation, AAA Cooper Transportation and Colonial Marine Industry. GO is most grateful for these partnerships and the small group of

US brothers and sisters that worked on the curriculum. Also, collected, sorted, and packed the aid. Without this, the work in Guyana is just not possible. What a wonderful example of our Lord's command to love one another as He has loved us.

Also, GO is grateful to each one that participated in the fund-raiser at Brooklyn Park Lutheran Church to help with the cost of the Abstinence program. The event was a success due to the hard work of the director, cast, serving and cleaning crew and to the volunteers that made the desserts and the pies for the auction. The Board joins me in thanking each one for all of the many ways you continue to give of your labor of love, finance and prayer to the Mission of GO. Our Lord will reward you.

We built a second library with the over 3,000 books that you donated. Because of the lack of finance we were unable to build the rooms for counseling. We improvised small rooms by making dividers using plastic tubings and cloth, but we did have the very necessary chairs, TVs and VCRs.



*Taking the Pledge*

We distributed clothing to the Amerindians at Orealla, and to Muslims and Hindus. Toys and other gifts were distributed to 10 daycare and nursery schools. We also distributed books and other items to churches of the various denominations.

We have embarked on the abstinence program solely on an act of faith and trust. I do believe that the Lord continues to teach me a deeper level of trust and intimacy through the mission of GO and now through the Abstinence program. "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs. 3:5-6. As you are aware GO is not funded by any large organization, but only through your sacrificial and faithful giving. I wish each one had the opportunity to experience how GO operates with so very little while bearing much fruit.

As we take stock of this year, GO has accomplished a lot in Guyana. The Abstinence Program on solid ground. GO continues to teach computer and Internet skills to provide better jobs. Sewing and crafts help the women to help themselves and families. The

Board and I appeal to you to seek the Lord in making your year-end contribution. While we are all volunteers here, it takes a lot of finance to get the aid to Guyana, to fund the abstinence program and to pay a full-time staff of 7. There is overhead cost to maintain two schools. GO is a tax-exempt organization. Please prayerfully seek the Lord in helping us.

May the Lord bless each one of us and our families this Christmas tide. I pray the Christ Child be born anew in each of our hearts as we stay on the Word of God. It is my prayer that the year 2004 bless us with health and happiness.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." Phil. 1:3



*Signing Pledge Card*