

Guyanese Outreach

*And the King will answer and say to them,
“Truly, I say to you, to the extent that you
did it to one of these brothers of mine, even
the least of them, you did it to me.”*

Matthew 25:40

November 2008

Dear Friends and Partners of GO:

This letter comes from sunny Guyana, the land of many waters, to you in the land of 10,000 lakes. In this newsletter, I am focusing on how God answers our prayers.

But first, I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. These are hard times and many of us are struggling. Whatever the hardship, whether pain from having lost a loved one, loss of job or home, or health problems, our Lord asks us to come unto Him. Phil. 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in every thing, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

My journey to deeper understanding of our Lord includes my learning how to better listen and to be faithful and obedient unto Him especially in my pain. I believe that pain is an appointment with Father God. I do not understand His ways, for His ways are higher than the heavens.

Through pain and disappointment, I am learning a deeper trust. “The Lord Himself will go before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deut.31:8.

As I continue to grow in my faith, I also see GO continues to grow. GO continues to reach out into the communities through our affiliate churches. Children are learning to read. Parents are learning about the love of our Lord through GO’s daily activities. This mission grows because of you.

In March, 2008 GO was blessed by a joint effort of The Children's Chance and Charisma Foundation. The Children's Chance collected and packed 25,000 books, 5,000 National Geographic, 50 computers, one copier and over 2,000 soft toys. The stuffed toys were used as packing materials for the computers and were later distributed to the children.



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Charisma Foundation paid the total bill to ship the container to Guyana. Their efforts and support have resulted in the distribution of over 6,000 books and 3,000 National Geographic to the libraries of 11 Primary and Secondary schools; GO's 7 satellite locations and different churches and in 2 government schools. GO is most grateful for this partnership in the Kingdom work.

We are grateful to Discover Church/BPLC and Hope Lutheran Church. You, the BODY of Christ for your prayers, faithfulness and support to maintain GO in Guyana. Thank you for your contributions that went in the shipment. GO thanks Rick and Kristine Cotterman at Exodus Design for their help in preparing documents for customs while maintaining GO's webpage.



It was not easy to store 25,000 books while we sorted and distributed. Over and over, my eyes are opened to God's goodness and answer to prayers. The Manager of the Sugar Estate loaned us their community Center to sort. This is something which is seldom done.

The work was hard and long but God provided us with volunteers almost each day. Along with staff, we sorted from 9 am to 5 pm during almost all of April and May. The remaining books are stored for future libraries.

Another prayer was answered. The Minister of Education gave GO his approval for the functional literacy program. He wrote that our "curriculum is Good and Supplemental for the primary schools." GO is one of the non-profit in Guyana to receive this approval.

Another prayer was answered when GO was blessed with a new VSO, (volunteer Service Overseas) Nicola Mathison for the next 2 years. She develops our functional literacy program. In April 2009, GO would be receiving another Peace Corps Volunteer for two years to strengthen local management.

GO's After School Reading Program is now in 5 different churches; in our 2 Vo-tech facilities, and 2 public grade schools. GO serves over 350 students weekly. We are known as the Christian school.

Each day, from 8:30-11:30 am, our teachers travel to a public school to teach sewing/crafts to 170 students. These students failed their primary school entrance exams. As a result, they are channeled to vocational schools.

This is a service of our Lord Jesus through you. People ask why are we doing this? The answer is because of the love of Jesus and the support of Christians in the US, we want to help our children. Many in the community are puzzled and wonder where we get the strength. We know that answer. Other missions came and went because the work is so hard.

What a witness!

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GO has been waiting for over three years now for the government to issue a lease to occupy the Skeldon Vo-Tech or vacate. While waiting GO endured a lot of difficulty and staff suffered. I said unto the Lord, “God, I surely do not understand Your ways. “WHY, have You allowed such difficulty to stay in this facility when your children gain so much”? As I sought Our Lord, what I received from Him, was, that “prayers move mountains.”

Although we may not understand, his timing is perfect. While waiting, God blessed GO with a grant given from the European Union, (EU). Talk about not understanding God’s plans! Amidst the difficulty of not having a lease for the present Vo-tech, God blessed GO with a Lease for another building at No. 71 Village given by the government for 10 years. It is located about 6 miles from our present location with a lease of just \$5.



Signing of the Lease



Lions Club before Renovation



Replace all Posts and add Windows



Almost Completed Building

We are thankful for the help and assistance of the local Lions Club to give permission to use and occupy their former building. Since the building was not used for 4 years, it needed a lot of renovation. The cost of the renovation far exceeded what was available from the EU grant.

All 12 foundational posts were all rotten. It had concrete walls, but with open spaces, which brought in a lot of dust. There were no windows. Doors had to be replaced.

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Many of us can identify with added financial costs when renovating. We are now faced with a cost that has far exceeded our already small budget. We were definitely unprepared for this amount of renovation cost which is now approximately \$18,000.

Although this new building is our new home, it is very small. It is absolutely necessary to build a shed until we have more funding to expand the building. The shed will create more space for the children to study. It is not a fancy shed. We want to build as economically as possible. But, still the cost of the shed is over \$8,000. We need 70 sheets of galvanized zinc, 16 ft. by 28 inches at \$47.00 each; 80 sacks of cement at \$10.00 per sack. The rest of the cost includes wood, nails and labor cost.



Crowded Building

Time for Exercise Because of Lack of Space

Through prayer, we know that God has called us to this village. GO is the first school of its kind here. It is exciting to see children and parents of different religious background come to borrow books including surrounding villages. GO's presence and help to the community is very much appreciated here. My heart is touched and if you were here, yours would be also.

What an opportunity that God has called us to co-labor, till the soil; plant seeds; and water for growth to bear fruits for His Kingdom. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. GO needs your help.

The Board and I ask for your continued prayers for the many needs here in the mission field. Please also join us in prayer for a pastor and his family to answer the "Call" as a "Shepherd" to the churches that have our reading programs.

As Thanksgiving approaches, my prayer is that our Lord Jesus would grant us the Grace and the strength to endure these hard days ahead.

Blessings to you and your family,

Ruth

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