

Amerindian Missions ~ Guyana

Jerry O. Davidson, Missionary

Summerdale Church of Christ

P.O. Box 314 * Summerdale, AL 36580

December 8, 2009

Dear Friends of Amerindian Missions,

Two goals we have in the work of Amerindian Missions are to establish the Lord's church in every Amerindian Village in Guyana and place a Bible in every hut. We feel a deep responsibility to do more than just baptize people and leave them. We have spent the last several trips in Guyana strengthening the congregations where the church has already been planted in the villages.

Also we have focused on training Amerindian preachers to evangelize their own people. In July of this year, ten Amerindian men graduated from Guyana Christian University in Lethem and are now working in their home village as the preacher of the Lord's church. In September we enrolled another group of ten students. Bryant Evans from Daphne, AL and John O'Neal from Bridgeport, AL have traveled to Guyana to teach these students during the current semester. Other brethren will be going to teach Bible courses. If you have an interest in teaching at Guyana Christian University, please contact Bryant Evans. In addition to these instructors, our director, Thomas George, is teaching Bible classes and using the video curriculum made possible by the World Video Bible School.

GUYANA MISSION TRIP OCTOBER 13 - OCTOBER 27, 2009

Sixteen Americans worked in Shea Village in the southern region of Guyana, South America: Donna and Perry Lucas, Jennifer Gondos, J.T. Beard, Jerry Brantley, Darryl Harvey, Mark Hocutt, Gene Johnson, Stephen Kelley, Larry Kirby, Tom Musick, David Myers, John O'Neal, Kent Purser, Roger Phy, and Jerry Davidson. A wonderful Christian spirit existed among the team as we worked together to accomplish God's will.

Jerry Brantley, Gene Johnson, Tom Mustek, Roger Phy and Jerry Davidson stayed for the third week and worked in Shulinab and Yupukarai Villages. John O'Neal returned home on Nov. 9 after staying in Lethem to teach classes at Guyana Christian University. We will have information about the third week's work in the next newsletter.

Our plan for the October Mission Trip was to go to Karadaranauwau Village, a village with over a thousand residents.

Our effort to obtain permission to go there was denied. Therefore, we made plans to divide our team of 16 Americans and a large number of Guyanese brethren into two teams to go to Shea Village and Maruranau Village. We made application to both of these villages to conduct a campaign for Christ in each of them. The Captain of Maruranau had our letter of application read before the assembly of the Roman Catholic church and they denied permission. The people of the village were not given an opportunity to decide; the decision was made by the Catholic Assembly. However, we were given permission to work in Shea Village, for which we were most thankful.

We traveled from Lethem to Shea Village on Friday, October 17. We had a caravan of two large Army trucks, one pickup truck and one SUV. We were advised to take a shortcut through Sand Creek Village, in order to reach Shea Village before sunset, but it didn't turn out to be a shortcut after all. At several places it was necessary to cut our way through the dense foliage. Several problems developed to hinder our journey. First the SUV ran hot and it took some time to let it cool down, add water to the radiator and then push start it. About 15 miles before we reached Shea, a problem developed in one of the Army trucks and we had to leave it behind. The other three vehicles made it to the village well after dark. Shea Village does not have electricity; therefore we had to use our flashlights to set up camp in and around a small community center. Another small building was made available for us to use as a kitchen. The women in our team were able to use part of this building for their living accommodations.

Everyone was extremely tired after traveling for eight hours through the trails leading to Shea Village. After unloading these trucks, we had to go back to the disabled Army truck, because it had all of our tents on it!! These were transferred to the operating truck and we finally got back to the village near midnight. Again everyone worked together and we set up our tents in the dark. Some were able to bathe with water from the water tanks in the school compound. Others went to bed as they were!! It was not a pleasant experience, but I heard no complaints. With dust and dirt from the trail on all of us, I suppose it was best that we didn't have light to see how we really looked. Someone said we had more dirt on us than we could remove with one bath!

Early the next morning we awakened to see where we had spent the night in Shea Village. The villagers were curious to see this small army of Christians who had moved into their village. We began assessing our accommodations now that we could see with the sun's rising.

We were welcomed by the village captain, Larry Johnson, and the members of the village council. They laid out the conditions upon which we were allowed to stay in their village. We would have to pay a modest fee for the use of the buildings and would be able to conduct the evening services in the school compound using the benches and desks out in the schoolyard for an open-air campaign each night. With our generators we were able to have ample lighting. We had plenty of songbooks and Bibles for everyone.

Naturally we were disappointed that we were denied permission to enter Maruranau, but we came up with a plan that proved to be successful. We sent about 6-8 Amerindian brethren over into the village of Maruranau each day for them to visit throughout the village. Then every afternoon we sent the Army truck over to the village to provide transportation for those who wanted to attend the campaign service in Shea. Each night there were from 15-20 individuals that attended the services. On Saturday night, almost half of Shea Village attended the campaign service.

Each night of the campaign, we had two speakers. We were able to show video presentations using a video projector on a large bed sheet. Those from Maruranau Village were taken back home after the services were concluded. Though this required more work for us, it proved to be a perfect way to introduce the Lord's church to Maruranau Village. We are confident that in time the Lord's church will be established in this village, which is between Shea Village and Awarewaunau Village where the Church is now established.

As a gesture of compassion toward the people of Maruranau, we donated a large amount of medical supplies to their Health Center, made possible by the brethren who supported John O'Neal on this trip. These items were purchased in Georgetown and divided between Shea Village and Maruranau Village.

Each day our team would go throughout Shea Village to meet with all who wanted to study God's Word. The Lord granted us good success in this first effort. Eighteen souls were baptized and two weddings conducted. The deputy captain named Leo Atkinson and his wife, though not legally married but were together, were married legally and baptized into Christ. The church began meeting in their house. For the near future, Amerindian brothers Elvis Bernard and Charles Simon, who both work with the church at Awarewaunau, 15 miles away, will be traveling there to preach and teach. A motorcycle was purchased and was left with these brothers to provide transportation to and from Shea Village.

The plan for our mission trip in March 2010 is to divide into two teams that will conduct campaigns in Shea and Yupukari villages. Therefore as you are reading this, why not consider being one of our team members for our next mission trip?

Thank you for your continued support and prayers, which allow Amerindian Missions to continue. Together we are making a difference in the Amerindian lives, and we are blessed to be able to serve in this great work.

May God's love and grace be with you in 2010!

Because Jesus Christ came, we go,

Jerry O. Davidson