

GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA  SINCE 1999

# Amerindian Missions

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*Under the oversight of the elders of the Morrison Church of Christ*

March 15.2024

Dear fellow laborers,

I am so thankful for your support and encouragement of our work in Guyana with the Amerindian people. We could not do this work without your support.

We've recently returned from Guyana. On this trip three of the local preachers, Sunil, and myself visited three villages and conducted what I refer to as a "Now That I'm A Christian" series of lessons. Our intent is to strengthen and encourage spiritual growth among the congregations there. We've now done this series in nine different villages.

We were later joined by sister Jennifer Gondos Wernli in the village of Awarawanau where she told the lady's classes in the mornings and the children's classes in the evening. She is a great asset to the work in Guyana. She had 15 local women each morning for class and about 30 children in the evening. She worked hard to teach the ladies the importance of teaching the children, even having them put those skills into practice. It was a joy to see the ladies use what she had taught them, which we pray that they'll continue.

In the three villages we had a total of 6 baptisms and 10 restorations.

Sadly, we had to address a problem of three of our preacher situations, one who had gotten involved in the use of alcoholic beverages. I was glad that he admitted his error and repented. Hopefully, if he stays clean, we can use him again in the pulpit. He is an incredibly talented man and it hurt the work to lose him and his talents. There is another young preacher who has chosen to go back into worldliness and has moved to Brazil to avoid some local mistakes he had made. The third man we had to terminate due to his health issues, which caused him to be unable to do the needed work. We also gave him three months of pay and in addition he has government retirement benefits and some income he receives from his years of teaching in the public school system. We also were able to add one new preacher to fill one of the vacancies. We still have one preacher change to address, which is in progress.

While there we made three preacher changes. Some of our long standing godly preachers are getting older and they readily acknowledge that they can no longer keep up the work that needs to be done. We usually continue to pay them for three months after they agree to step aside and let the younger men take over. Each of the older men have government retirement assist, we don't just cut off the ones who have served the Lord for several years. Most of them have assured us that they want to continue to assist in the work by helping the new man and the congregation in the future.

I feel like this was a very productive trip and we are making plans to return in the fall. In the meantime, we have two groups of local preachers who will be conducting mini-campaigns in two villages. I'm proud to see them take it upon themselves to reach out into villages without us Americans having to be there to lead them. We do pay the travel and other expenses for those men as well as

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give them some additional pay. We need more preachers. We only got one new preacher out of the last group of graduates from the school. But I understand that the upcoming session of the school will have some potential new preachers.

I had a difficult return trip home this time. Four illegal aliens decided to tag along. When we landed in Miami on our return trip I was taken by wheelchair from the plane. Thankfully sister Jennifer had call 911 and airport medical staff and the paramedics converged on me and took me by ambulance to Jackson Memorial hospital which is connected to the University of Miami hospital, which is a teaching hospital, also well know as one of the best infectious disease hospitals in the county.

They discovered that I was carrying four different E coli bacteria. Several doctors told me that they had not known of one person having four E coli at the same time. Several doctors also told me that if I had tried to continue my journey to get back home, and having a nine hour layover before my flight to Knoxville, I likely would have died while waiting there in the airport and also could have infected other people. After seven days in isolation they allowed me to come home. I've recovered well and am nearly back to 100% with a changed diet and three more specialist doctors to visit in the upcoming week and compromised energy. But thanks to so many prayers from my dear brethren all over the world, I'm doing well, even better than the doctors had expected. As I said earlier, I'm making plans to return to Guyana in the fall. Our God and His children are so good and I am so very grateful for their love and prayers.

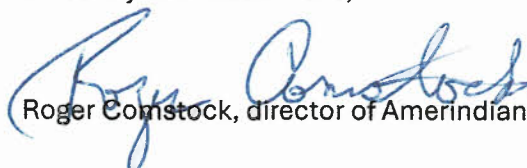
**SPECIAL NOTE: We have had several problems with the Post Office delivering our mail. Three envelopes containing your checks were lost in one day and we do not know how many more have been lost. They claim they were able to trace them to Knoxville, but we do not know where they went from there. Would each of you ask your treasurers to check their bank statements to check and see if your checks sent from 12/15/23 to 3/15/24 have cleared your bank accounts. If they have not cleared your account, we must assume they have also been lost. Some of you have already replaced your support checks, if your checks have not cleared your bank account, would you please write us a new check and send to us. If you need to "stop payment" on the previous check, feel free to deduct any bank charges from the amount you sent us. We know that there are some missing, but we believe we have solved the problem by using traceable mail services. We genuinely appreciate you help and continued support. Feel free to ask any questions you may have.**

Lord willing we will be making a trip south in a couple of weeks to do presentations about our work at four of our supporting congregations. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, my contact information is in the heading. If you'd like to have us come and make a report to your congregation please contact me. We are blessed to have added two new congregations to our great supporters.

Please keep our Amerindian brethren in your prayers. We are trying our very best to continue this good work that our beloved brother Jerry Davidson began.

Sincerely in Christian love,

  
Roger Comstock, director of Amerindian Missions