

### *Guyana trip journal 2007*

**Saturday June 16th** - There are those that believe everything happens for a reason but I never ascribed to that school of thought. We had a major ticketing problem today. It resulted in having to call members of our team at 2:00 a.m. to get them to the airport by 5 when we had previously planned to be there at 9:00 a.m. Three members of our team flew out on an early flight to Miami and four of us had to take a later flight that missed our connection. We will take a flight out tomorrow and catch up with the group. Guyana is not a major travel route and there are only a couple airlines that have one flight a day in and out of the country. Traveling on Saturday gives us a buffer day if there is a problem. With any luck we will get there and be ready to work in the clinic Monday morning. Guyana is a place I started coming to in 1995 on medical mission trips. I've learned a lot about this unique country through the years but have so much more yet to learn. There are many trips sponsored by members of the churches of Christ that do various services in Guyana. Medical mission is a simple concept in which we meet the needs of people physically which often opens doors to reaching them spiritually.

**Sunday June 17th**-woke up in Miami, the four of us left behind had a morning devotional and then we went to the airport. We had more travel problems than we have ever had before and all of it was on the domestic and not the international carrier end of things. We had trouble with passports that did not come on time and 2 other people in our group that are from other parts of the country did not get their passport until Saturday morning and so they will be joining up with us today to travel on together. Our Government did not think the passport thing through and it has made it no safer to travel but certainly has made it harder for us to travel. We had other issues to contend with including airport closures and delayed flights and finally arrived at the hotel at 2 a.m.

**Monday June 18th**- The group was up in the morning after a short night and had breakfast and had our Guyana orientation before going to the clinic. Steve Deloach is our local contact person who is a missionary who has been in Guyana since 1992. He lives here four to five months of the year and the rest of the time lives in Arkansas. He works through operation Guyana (web site is interesting [www.guyana-missions.org](http://www.guyana-missions.org)) and is involved in many outreach operations including the medical teams that come. We get assistance with Partners in Progress which is an organization overseen by the elders of one of the Little Rock congregations. Partners in Progress send medical mission teams all over the world some for short-term some for long-term. Essentially we go to a local congregation and put up the sign and then open the clinic. The way the clinic is designed is that anyone can come to the clinic and be seen by the medical doctor or can be seen in the eye clinic. Prior to that visit they sit down with a personal worker and they take down a few questions. They are asked if they would like to study the Bible. If they say no then they are sent on to the clinic to see the medical doctor or to be seen in the eye clinic. If they want to study then the personal workers conduct studies which sometimes last for a few minutes and sometimes last for many hours. Today in the clinic was our first day and traditionally a slow day; we saw 100 people and had five baptisms from the studies that were done.

**Tuesday June 19th**-today we saw 200 people in the clinic and had one baptism and many good studies. Many local Christians are working in the clinic with us. We close the clinic down at 6:00 p.m. and then have an evening service which includes a children's program. Each night the crowd gets bigger.

**Wednesday June 20th**-today we saw 221 patients and had eight baptisms. The congregation here is very excited to have us working with them. Many of the ladies of the church work all day every day in the clinic. Our team is composed of people from Canton Ohio, Lancaster Ohio, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Ark., and Tennessee. There are about 28 team members in all. Guyana is a unique place. This was my eighth missionary trip here. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South

America. Economically it is tied to the Caribbean communities more than its South American neighbors. Culturally it is tied through its British history to England. They drive on the British side of the road here and is cricket is still king in sports.

**Thursday June 21st**-we saw 282 patients today and had 110 Bible studies and had eight more baptisms.

**Friday June 22nd** for the nightly service we continued with the fame of Jesus on the cross. We had over 100 in attendance at the nightly meeting. In 1989 there were only about 12 churches of Christ in the country. Since then with all the mission involvement and interest in Guyana there are 100 congregations of the churches of Christ. This is due to met many factors only 1 of which is what we do but still we play a part in a great work. I did the morning devotional yesterday I talked about getting outside our comfort zones in serving the Lord. I used I Samuel 15:33-35 as a text. It's easy to see how all of us are outside our comfort zone here in the mission field but I talked about getting out side our comfort zone at home more in the service of God at our local congregation. It's been my pleasure to make 8 trips many of which others in Lancaster have come as well. It's amazing to see how we all have grown when we get outside of our comfort zone. Ray Hunt and elder of one of the churches in Canton Ohio gave the evening message. He did a great job. I also get to renew friendships with many great people in the faith. I once again was able to see Clyde Daggett an elder in the church in Manchester New Hampshire. Today we saw 293 people and had over a hundred studies and several baptisms. All told this week we saw over a thousand patients, to over four Bible studies and had about 25 baptisms. In closing I want to thank you for your support you've been a part of a good thing and it made possible for me to travel here. I was able to take my daughter Jessica who worked in triage and in the eye clinic and my son Jared who worked with patient flow through the clinic. This trip counts as a vacation week for me and while it certainly is not a vacation I've been blessed from it. Without your financial support I would only be able to make this trip every 4-5 years but with your support I've been able to go on a frequent basis and use talents I have been given to me for his glory.

Thank You, **Mark Aebi**