

6/14/2003 7:44 AM - On first flight of the day to Memphis. I awoke today in Lancaster Ohio @ 3 AM; met the other members of the team at the church building at 4 AM. The plan for today is 5 airports and a long van ride at the end of the day. We'll go today from Columbus to Memphis to Miami to Barbados and finally to (British) Guyana on the northern coast of South America. Eight people from our congregation are traveling and will hook up with about 30 others in Miami. This is my 6th trip with this group since 1995. I travel with Partners in Progress - an organization run by members of the Churches of Christ that send medical mission teams all over the globe.

6/15/2003 Long day - worshiped with the Plaisance congregation of the Lord's church. This is the congregation that we will be working with this week and will hold our clinic on the church grounds. It is Father's day and the congregation had a special treat for us dads! I had the chance to be with this congregation once before in 1997. It's great to see the work progress. After lunch we packed pills for 4 hours then had a 2 hour orientation to the mission work in Guyana by Steve Deloach. Steve has been in Guyana since 1992. He lives here 6 months out of the year in and the states for 6 months. They will have 8-10 medical mission teams this summer.

6/16/2003 4:20 PM; The first day of clinic is over. The first day is rough; setting up clinic takes about 1-2 hours but then it's set up for the week. We have 2 physicians, a physical therapist, a nurse practitioner, a dentist and an optometrist. The dentist and the eye doctor are the hot items down here. We saw 220 people in clinic today. All the people seen have a bible study offered to them before they see the doctor. The medical clinic is really the drawing card to put these people in touch with Jesus and his church. Some don't want to study which is fine, others have short studies; and others have in depth studies. We had 1 baptism in clinic today. We arrived back at the hotel in time to wash up; catch a short nap; have dinner; and then it's on the bus to go back to the clinic area for the nightly "crusades" (gospel meeting and VBS for the kids).

6/17/2003 5 PM Today we saw 234 in clinic between medical patients, dental patients, and eye patients. Today we had 8 baptisms in clinic. A question I get often is what is the retention rate. The answer is that it is better than it is back here in the states. It is so exciting to think that in heaven some one might walk up to you that came to know God because of one of these clinics. The providence of God is a mysterious thing. I had the morning group devotional thought yesterday morning and spoke about the providence of God using the passage from Esther Chapter 4: "how do you know but that you have come to power for such a time as this." On to dinner then the group will go to crusades again tonight. I will go to work at a evening clinic site that Operation Guyana runs year round.

6/18/2003 5 PM. Saw about 200 people today in clinic and had 7 baptisms. Also a baptism last night after church. Evening services are approaching 200 in number in a congregation of about 30-40 members. Our evening speaker is Charles Smith, a dynamic passionate speaker from Louisiana. Our team consists of people from about a dozen churches of Christ from Kentucky, Ohio, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Tennessee.

6/19/2003 Saw about 250 in clinic today, had 6 or so baptisms. A group from Kansas will be coming next week to work with the Plaisance congregation following up on the new converts. Final night of crusades attendance is over 200. Not every member of church comes to work at the clinic to reach out to their community. Some come and see how many times they can go through the clinic and get free meds, dental and eye care. Each one we see displaces a non-Christian member of the community that could have been seen. People are people the world

over and I think of the people back home who monopolize the resources of the church: the preachers time, the Elder's time ETC. People are people the world over!!!

6/20/2003 4PM -Back from clinic early, had to break clinic down and load it up. We ran out of a lot of medicines the final day. Always hard to guess how much of which type of med to bring. Tonight we will attend Graduation of the School of Biblical Studies here in Georgetown. Late night entry - 10 PM Graduation was an awesome experience; crowd of about 600 Guyanese brethren met at the National Cultural Center - an impressive theater; the same concept as the Kennedy Center in DC. The singing was awesome and the speakers were most impressive. It is so interesting to see brothers in a different culture struggling with exactly the same issues that we are.

6/21/2003 We have a day off to rest before we head back to Ohio. Day of sleep for some; for some of us we took some time to see the local sights. After dinner we met to discuss the impact this week has had on us. We saw over 1000 people in the clinic and had 22 baptisms. The members of our team will grow and benefit much more than the people that we served.

6/22/2003 We awoke at 1:30 AM and had church service and communion at the hotel conference center. We were in the vans at 2 AM and at the airport at 3 AM. We got through the check out procedure and the inspections. 5 airports and many hours later we were back in Columbus Ohio. The providence of God to me is a mysterious thing and I believe he can take the little work that we did this week and make it serve him well.