

Greetings to our Prayer Partners, Supporters, Friends and Family

Can you believe it; we are beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> month of the year. I really don't where time goes. We are back in Tennessee again and have been here since the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. It is good to be back and sleep in our own bed again. We were in Indiana the last time we wrote to you. We had a very good visit with our brothers and sisters at Greencastle Christian Church (GCC) and we were able to share some of our experiences with them the last Sunday we were there. We packed up all the materials that were collected and brought them back to Tennessee, so we could pack everything from GCC and Seymour Heights Christian Church (SHCC) into boxes for the trip to Guyana. Before we left Indiana we had some bad news. Our son-in law Jeff Kelso had some problems with some injuries to his feet and he developed gangrene in both feet. When he got to the emergency room they told him if he had waited till morning he probably would not have lived. They removed his left leg at the knee and a toe on the right foot and they feel pretty sure that the right leg will have to be removed later, but they are hoping that he might be able to heal the left leg before they have to take the right leg. Please keep him in your prayers. He is home now and recovering. He didn't have medical insurance and tried to heal himself, but he is diabetic.

When we got back to Seymour; the church was just finishing their collections for Guyana and we scheduled a time to pack all of the boxes for the 8 churches in East Berbice. We ended up with 2 boxes for each church; one box contained only teaching materials and weighed approximately 34 pounds and the 2<sup>nd</sup> box contained craft supplies and weighed approximately 16 pounds, for a total of 50 pounds per church. The next day we went to the post office to send the packages and discovered that the postal service did not ship international packages by ship any more only by air and it was going to cost \$1600 dollars. Well, after Anita revived me, we took the two boxes that we had brought into the post office and put them back into the car and went home to investigate plan #2. As I write to you now, we have reduced the cost to \$800 and have another quote to come. The Lord created the desire in people to help and supplied the materials and we are confident that He will supply a way to get them to Guyana.

The churches in Guyana are so excited about the materials that are coming. They are planning on scheduling their VBS's after they receive the supplies. Each box contains many of the same materials. We thought you would like to know what you have supplied. The heavier box contains the curriculum. Each church received approximately one year of teaching materials, about 15 posters, at least 2 dozen flannel-graph Bible lessons, 6 or more Bible coloring books, several reading books, dozens of coloring pages and take-home papers, and a supply of teacher's magazines as well as 5 children's music CD's. The second box is full of craft supplies. Each church got a large package of construction paper, a piece of felt for a flannel-graph board, craft sticks, beads including Christian and sport symbols for crafts, lacing, cross and alphabet foam crafts, goggly eyes, feathers, fuzzy sticks, stickers, glue sticks, 5 packages of felt-tip markers, 3 or more large bottles of glitter, sequins and some craft ideas including samples of crafts. It took eight people over one hour to sort and break down the materials into boxes for the 8 churches! Altogether there are over 400 pounds of material! Bless you all for your support and help. Hopefully we will be able to ship everything this week now that we have found a way to get it there by ship.

We are working with the international students at UT again and were so glad to renew our friendships there. Several new students have come this semester. Many are visiting scholars and visiting professors. Since they will only be here for one year they are most anxious to improve their English while they are in the USA. It is interesting to get their impressions of life in the USA. It is very different from the ideas they had before they came. Before coming to the US they thought of Americans as loud, violent people (the movies and TV version) but they find us to be quiet, family-loving people who really seem to love and care for others. One of the students who has been in the US for several years tells us how much coming here changes Chinese people. He says that they become friendlier and more compassionate, less goal-oriented, when they are exposed to Christianity in the US. He says even if they aren't Christians when they leave that it opens the doors to them and they are more open to Christianity at home.

We never know what God has in store for us next. Since we live very near Johnson Bible College we have been invited to participate in their Senior Saints in the Smokies Days for the next 2 weeks. We were asked to help with a seminar about How to Live Your Christianity during Retirement. This should be very interesting. I have one more item to tell you about and for you to lift up in prayer. Since we have returned from Guyana, 4 or 5 people have asked Anita about organizing a mission trip to Guyana. Anita ask me about it and I said there are some details we would have to work out, especially the living arrangements. Then a couple of days later, while we were in a meeting, John Leech ask if there would any benefit to having a base in Guyana where groups could go and be able to help the churches with some of their programs and encourage the churches and what would something like that cost. My ears perked up and I started wondering if God was trying to tell us something. So I wrote to the ministers in Guyana to get their opinion on the proposal and they were very positive about the idea and are putting together some estimates for the cost of building a facility and vehicle costs. We would plan on two or three couples to spend time in Guyana and maintain the property and host trips through the year. Let us know what you think about such an idea and pray about it and when we get the estimates I will let you know some more details. I had better quit and get this sent or it will be July before you get this. Thank again for all your prayer and encouragement.

In the Love of Jesus

Tom and Anita