

GUYANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Youth & Children Ministries Dept.

In Collaboration with



IAD - ASI MISSION 2000 & BEYOND



ASI MISSION 2000 & BEYOND: IMPACT GUYANA 2019

NO LONGER SLAVES

As the setting sun ushered in the Sabbath on the evening of the 2nd of August 2019, 140 missionaries were gathered in the Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church in Georgetown, Guyana together with teams from the nine (9) sites selected for this impact. Pastor Chichester the Personal Ministry Director brought greetings on behalf of the Administrators of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventist; Pastor Noel Shultz welcomed us to Guyana and the Olivet Church. The unflappable Pastor Rodwell Anderson who was charged with the responsibility of coordinating the many dimensions of the project, consecrated all present for the work.

It was a night of consecration, praise and thanksgiving to God who had brought together this team for “*Impact 2019*”. We were reminded by Evangelist Rashad St. Hill that despite our circumstances “**the Lord God Almighty still reigns!**” He would show himself strong on our behalf as we sought to light this part of the earth with His glory!

Sabbath morning saw the departure of teams of eager children and youth under the charge of their team leaders to the various sites: **Team Hebron** led by Bro. Eric Cumberbatch and Sister Patricia Young; **Golden Grove** led by Pastor Nicola English-Newsam and Sister Shryl Jackson; **Georgetown #2** led by Elder Joseph Francis and Sisters Joni Bartley and Loverne Jacobs-Browne; **Team Grove** led by Pastor Richard Frederick and Sister Veronica Jones; **Team Belmont** led by Elder Avon Browne and Sister Tamika Cumberbatch; **Team Shiloh & Smyrna** led by Elder Claudette Genas and Sister Shanjaz Barrett; **Team Diamond** led by Sisters Suzan George and Audrey Foote; **Team Carmel** led by Sisters Joy Nurse and Kareel Meikle and **Team Tuschen** led by Elder Dwight Newsam and Sister Carla Bentley-Thomas.

Leaders understood their responsibility to ensure a swift and smooth transition of each site into evangelism and mission mode; capacity building by mobilizing and equipping the children and youth of Guyana, at each site to embrace the mission of the church as a way of life. *Mission is a lifestyle* was an oft-repeated truism and Jamaica brought the rallying slogan used at many sites: “***If we don’t go, they won’t know and we won’t grow!***”

Guyana afforded the very inexperienced Mission team (over 60% of whom were first-time missionaries) the opportunity to take to the streets daily in the impact areas, to reach into communities to issue personal invitations, to meet needs, to conduct Bible studies with the

Bible Workers supplied by the Conference and those who volunteered for this work. Special mention is made in this regard of retired Pastor Phillip Bowman at Hebron and Sister Myrtle Singh at Carmel.

The community projects were as diverse as the sites themselves. Pedestrian signs were painted by Teams Carmel, Shiloh, and Diamond; Team Shiloh also shared the love of Jesus by visiting a children's home and donating supplies thereto. Team Grove painted a Nursery School and a nearby park for the children in the community, Team Tuschen painted the Auditorium of a Primary school in the community as well as Pedestrian crossings; Team Georgetown#2 built a bridge for a family in the community in addition to filling in areas of the yard which was a swamp to enable the family to better access and enjoy their home. Team Belmonte constructed a latrine, while Team Diamond painted one. Team Golden Grove undertook, with the support of the Ministry of Works, the patching and filling in of potholes in the area. It was three (3) weeks of intense labor by the young people both in the day and executing the evangelism series at night.





The Medical Mission and Health Impact Coordinated by Sis. Rhonda Bravo and the teams she mobilized opened doors and led to increased visitors' attendance nightly at the sites.

At the end of Impact Guyana 2019, many heard the good news that Jesus came to set all Captives free! **179 persons declared publicly by baptism that they were Ransomed and Redeemed and No Longer Slaves!**

Baptisms:



Pastor Kerwin Mitchell.
Diamond: 22 & Grove: 29

Pastor Noel Schultz.
Shiloh & Smyrna: 23

Pastor Dwayne Daniel.
Belmonte: 11 & Golden Grove: 37

Pastor Lenin Thomas.
Carmel: 12

Pastor Elton Lindy.
Hebron: 13

Pastor Leon Braithwaite:
Tuschen: 4

Pastors Oliver Moore and Hansel Hawker;
Georgetown#2 District: 28 (13 were baptized after an extended week).



Golden Grove's Tragedy And Opportunity: Funeral

We cannot conclude this report without mentioning the most serious frontal assault of the enemy. On Sabbath, the 10th of August 2019 a father gave his consent for two (2) of his sons to be baptized at Golden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church which they attended with their mother. That was her last Sabbath on earth as she was later slain by her husband. His failed suicide attempt means that their eight children are without father and mother. He is in the custody of the state.

We thank Tobago Mission for consenting to the request for Pastor Nicola English-Newsam (the team leader for that site) to remain an extra week in Guyana to spearhead the attempt to initiate healing in the community. She led teams of missionaries through the community to pray for residents. The funeral service conducted by her and Pastor Chichester the Personal Ministry Director of the Guyana Conference; coupled with the sensitive way Elder Ron Chichester officiated went a long way towards that objective. Every grieving voice was heard, and heaven truly drew near as the power of the Word caused all to look away from the tragedy and ground our hope in the coming King! Tropical Storm Dorian ensured that the Barbados contingent whose flight was cancelled, was on hand for the funeral service. We thank all the missionaries who gave up their spending money as we purposed to establish **The Golden Grove Children Fund** with the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for these children. **Contributions can be sent to the Guyana Conference to that fund.** Thank you, ASI Inter American Division, your contribution came in time to be added to the fund and to facilitate trained Counsellors assisting the members of the community in dealing with the tragedy. "The Golden Grove children" must now become our children as we ensure across the mission territories that yearly care packages are sent for them.

It was truly a blessing and a pleasure working with Pastor Exton Clarke, President of the Guyana Conference, and his team. The challenge of a new Administration of hosting a

Mission project such as ours, with very little time to prepare, was not lost on us. However, his facilitative approach argues well for the growth and development of Team Guyana.

Pastor Chichester and his team have a cohort of exceptional young evangelists most of whom are under 20 years old, who are ready for local mission projects as they prepare for impacts wider afield! Upward! Ever upward! Semper Fi! Forever faithful!