

Leadership Training Trip to Guyana Report July 5-21

Sorry for the lateness of this report. Paul had almost completed it in Guyana, but his hard-drive is having issues since the return, therefore, could not retrieve what was written. Paul accompanied Stained Glass to Grand Rapids, MI that Sunday (July 24) and caught a flight back to DC on Monday (July 25). We left for his General Council Meetings and Conference that Tuesday afternoon (July 26). The Guyana heat, coupled with the cold Miami airport, contributed to him catching a cold that lingered into this week. He is now regaining strength.

It was our pleasure and honor to be able to go to Guyana and collaborate with their leadership at Conference. Because of time constraints, Paul was unable to complete the entire presentation. He is very pleased, however, with the latitude that was granted to do as much as possible. Below are the originally intended lessons:

- I. Making of Leaders for Ministry: born, molded to be leaders
- II. Calling of leaders for Ministry: Know your calling and purpose
- III. Qualifications of Leaders for Ministry: what are the qualifications
- IV. Leaders Equip Leaders for Ministry: responsibilities of the leader
- V. Leaders Include Others in Ministry: balance, cohesiveness and cooperation
- VI. Leaders Dressing for Ministry: appearances, hygiene and coolness
- VII. Spiritual Gifts for Leaders in Ministry: Know your spiritual gifts

The leaders so appreciate our time that they have requested that we come back next year to continue the leadership building process, with plans to have Diane and Elnora work with the female leaders and youth group of the Conference. The Sabbath at Conference, Pastor Paul met with President, Pastor Sherlock Caesar and General Secretary, Bernice Trotz. We were able to identify areas that need attention.

On this trip, events and activities were included that we were not prepared to tackle. By God's grace, we were able to adjust and went running.

Every chance we got, we took the opportunity to soak up some vitamin D and the cool refreshing ocean breeze. Fresh fruits and foods did the body good: water coconuts, mangoes, pineapples, guavas, sugar cane, ginips, bananas, passion fruits, etc. Diane actually lost weight. Paul did not, neither, did he gain – even though he ate more than he should have. On Sunday morning, July 10, Bro. Dwayne pointed out a free ranging rooster that will be dinner. By mid morning, it was captured, beheaded, soaked in hot water, plucked and was on the table for dinner. Sweetmeat. Still have the taste in our mouths.

It was in the schedule for the campers to have early morning physical training (PT). Without assigning anyone, the boys selected a leader and the girls likewise. Each morning, rain or shine, they worked out. Even went running throughout the village. A couple of free afternoons, the boys challenged a local soccer team to a match, and won both times. The unorganized team, beat the organized team.

Daily Logue

Date	Day	Event
July 5	Tuesday	Travel to Guyana thru Miami and Trinidad on Caribbean Airlines. Diane and Paul were assigned seats directly behind each other from Miami. She managed to convince a woman to trade for one of our window seats. Sis. Elnora joined the flight in Trinidad, who also had a window seat two rows up. The Evans' met us at the airport. We stayed with the Henry's.
July 6	Wednesday	Travel from Sarah Lodge to Kitty for the Guyana SDB Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – relaxed, prepared for the evening events

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM – An open forum was conducted by Pastor Paul with input from Deaconesses Diane and Elnora Andries from the Washington SDB Church. The focus was to help the group to consider their purpose for ministry. This exercise proved to be needed and valued greatly. The delegates were open and honest about themselves and the Conference. <u>Several made confessions.</u> <p>Seminar: <i>“Calling of Leaders for Ministry”</i></p>
July 7	Thursday	<p>Travel to Kitty – while in Kitty my sister (Te-Ann) and kids (Wahdae & Bodior) arrived. This was the first time since August 1978 that we were both in Guyana at the same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – seminar: <i>“Qualification of Leaders for Ministry”</i> part 1 PM – seminar: <i>“Qualification of Leaders for Ministry”</i>, part 2 & <i>“Leaders Equip Others for Ministry”</i>
July 8	Friday	<p>Travel to Kitty -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – seminar: <i>“Leaders Include Others in Ministry”</i>
July 9	Sabbath	<p>Travel to Kitty for Sabbath Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – Diane led the youth Sabbath School Class from the Helping Hand: <i>“Listen to God’s Judges”</i> (Jud. 2:11-19). <p>Paul Preached: <i>“Not Even Solomon”</i> (Luke 12:22-31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM – Paul was asked to officiate over the installation of the newly elected Conference officers. A group of about 20 went to the Botanical Garden. Paul and a group of young people walked back to Kitty. We were still dressed from church. <p>We were informed of the savory flavor of the Guyanese Chinese food for years. The watchful eyes of a dear sister did not give permit for this activity. However, tonight, we escaped those eyes. Even though we were full from dinner. The native son had a serving and a half. Diane was still full from dinner, reluctantly, took “a” spoonful. She promised to have it for lunch tomorrow. NO REGRETS!!!!</p> <p>In December 3 barrels were shipped from USA to Guyana for the Conference, but housed at the Henry’s. In this shipment were also things given by the Missionary Society. Late Sabbath night the process of sorting supplies for the churches begun.</p>
July 10	Sunday	<p>Stayed at home base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – continued to sort. Some of the Pastors west of the Essiquibo River stopped by to pick up their supplies. The churches were appreciative for all they have gotten. PM – relax after much work and heat. Elnora, Te-Ann, Diane and Paul went to see his grandmother’s house that his sister is renovating. Classy looking. Afterwards, we walked thru the village (Uitvlugt) where there’re from. Many people recognized Te-Ann and Paul because they were with Elnora – a well-known figure not only in the village, but also in region. The tour brought back years of forgotten memories and people. We were amazed of the houses that some people are living in.
July 11	Monday	<p>Travel to Camp (not on the original schedule) – in rain, rain, cats & dogs rain, as</p>

		<p>we were preparing to leave for camp @ Pomona Secondary School, with dorms and dining facilities for students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – preparation and left in heavy rain. Travel by ferry, navigating around the mouth of the Essiquibo River, which contains 365 islands. Being on the water in a big vessel was tranquil. <p>Before we left, a young man and his daughter was passing by, he immediately recognized Paul, who he had never Paul. Paul did not know this person existed – it was his cousin, his uncle’s son. “They (Andries) all look alike”, many would say.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM – the theme for camp was “Diligent in God’s Service” (Rom. 12:11). When we arrived at camp we were told that we needed our own dishes: cups, plates and spoons. Thank goodness, a “shop” (corner store) was within 2 blocks. In addition, we needed to wash our own dishes, cool. <p>Some of the Pastors allowed Paul and Diane to share a room in the men’s dorm. We had a room facing the East, getting the needed Ocean breeze at nights, so we could sleep. The first night was get acquainted time. About 50 campers between the ages of 12-24, some young ones were present with their parents, about 7 cooks and 7 staff.</p> <p>Most of the time when Diane needed to take a shower or use the facilities, Paul had to assume security details. At times, she would affix her “DO NOT ENTER” sign on the doorknob.</p>
July 12	Tuesday	<p>Diane was asked to lead the group in a song we sing. She drafted Elnora. They knew the song – but sung it differently. This was the case with most of the songs. This bunch believes in worshipping. (Did I say that already?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – Paul led the Junior High Bible Study – the girls are better readers than the boys. In addition, more engaging. PM – Paul preached – “Prepare for Difficult Times” (2 Tim. 3:1-17). After an hour of drenching sweat worship, Paul was still expected to preach and we were past curfew. He modified the message some.
July 13	Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – Paul led the Junior High Bible Study. The boys are beginning to open up and get more involved in the discussion. They are smiling and nodding their heads in agreement, but not too much voice. PM – Diane was asked to organized a Bible jeopardy game, which was a smashing success.
July 14	Thursday	<p>Diane led the morning devotion, with Rom. 12:1-2 as the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – Paul led Junior High Bible Study. Some of the Senior High boys decided to join Paul’s call, instead of theirs. PM – After lunch, the Pastors (Ewart, Jacob, Paul, Reggie & Sherlock) comprised the panel for the “questions & answers” session, with deaconesses Diane & Elnora answering at times. Most of the questions dealt with sex and relationships. We answered from scripture, with

		<p>reference. This group of campers was very eager to have their pre-written questions answered. A connection happened that we needed to schedule another time to finish answering all the questions.</p> <p>Dwayne brought Te-Ann and the children to camp. Sabbath day would be Wahdae's 13th birthday. She not only wanted to celebrate it in Guyana, as she did last year, but at camp. Preparation had been in the making all week long.</p>
July 15	Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – Paul led Junior High Bible Study. Te-Ann finalized the details for the Banquet/Birthday party for tomorrow • PM – each evening before a Pastor delivers the message, we would have a round of sweat worship – that is they would worship until they were drenched with sweat. These young people have lots of energy.
July 16	Sabbath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – Paul led the Junior High Bible Study – the entire Senior High class joined his. Leaving all the older folks (some came in for Sabbath worship) in the Senior High class, with the “senior” teacher/pastor. <p>We were notified on Monday evening that everyone would be well dressed for Sabbath day. They did not disappoint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM – We finished the questions and answers session. This session was much livelier than the first. The boys were more vocal with their questions and even had followed ups on some answers. This was wonderful. Openness, transparency, forthrightness, fervor, passion, zeal and love were evident. The campers appreciated the answers we gave from scriptures. <p>Two young men pulled the American Pastor aside, seeing his counsel on boy/girl relationship.</p> <p>It is a long standing tradition to have a Banquet at camp. The names of all campers were placed in a bag to be pulled. Most of the boys immediately protested the Camp Director's system, abruptly leaving the room. They had already pre-arranged their dates – escorts. His plan was interfering and they would not stand for it.</p> <p>The kids were dressed for a Banquet, all right. The boys went along with the Director's plan, long enough to get pass the cameras, then immediately switched dates before getting to the tables. The food was good and plenteous. In addition, even though they had party cakes and other Guyanese goodies. The America chocolate stole the show. Everybody wanted the things that they do not get on a regular basis. There was enough “chocolate candy” to go around several times. Did I mention that my niece got her first kiss? Her date was quickly informed that her father has a “gun.” (LOL).</p>
July 17	Sunday	<p>The ferry was schedule to leave at 3am; the next one would have been Monday. We will not miss that boat. The trip was nice! Camp was good! Fellowship was wonderful! Meeting new friends was amazing! Worship was awesome! Taking a comfortable shower is priceless!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – We arrived back at the Henry's by 7am. The young man that drove the bus knew Paul. He is always amazed that people would know him, having been gone so many years, and not been around much.

		<p>Upon our return, we left all the bags outside in the sun. Diane did laundry to get rid of the bed bugs we had picked up at camp. We found a few. We hung them on lines to dry in the sun and breeze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM – By late afternoon, the clothes were all dry. We relaxed and prepared for the next event starting tomorrow – VBS.
July 18	Monday	<p>Early in the morning Diane and Paul went with Dwayne and Kharlyn to the wharf in search of freshly caught fish. We purchased lots of fish, an assortment of seasonings for blending, a serious collection of more fruits, and the ingredient for a serious evening meal – COOK UP!!!</p> <p>We were “kinda” informed ahead of time that we would be working Vacation Bible School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – continued to relax, entertained a few friends. Steven Springer a native from Uitvlugt, who lives in the DC area, has been a strong financial supporter of the Uitvlugt SDB VBS program in Guyana. He is generous with his money for supplies, snacks/food, materials, prizes, etc. • PM – Vacation Bible School – the theme was “FULLY RELY ON GOD...” There were three classes, taught by Pastors Paul & Sherlock and Sis. Kharlyn. The lesson for the day was “...Awesome Protection” Daniel 6:5-28. Diane assisted Kharlyn • First day we had about 12 children. All but four were family. On the way out, a sign was placed in front of the church. The kids invited their friends. We were told by week’s end, they would have over 100 students.
July 19	Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – relax and prepared for VBS • PM – the lesson for the day was “...Awesome Deliverance” Daniel 3:12-30. Diane assisted Kharlyn. About 27 in attendance <p>Would you know it, the lights went out. We sat around telling stories. Very late the lights came back on.</p>
July 20	Wednesday	<p>Te-Ann the kids left for home, very early in the morning. She promised to call us to let us know that she is taking a hot shower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM – relax and prepared for VBS. Would you know it, the lights went out, again! This time all day. We were told that is typical for Wednesday’s. • PM – The lesson for the day “...Awesome Power” 1 Samuel 17:32-37,40-51. Diane assisted Kharlyn. About 78 in attendance. These kids were having meals for “snacks.” Compliments of Mr. Springer. • Paul and Diane rushed back to the Henry’s to pack, before dark. Darkness comes early in Guyana.
July 21	Thursday	<p>Travel back to the States Thru Trinidad and Miami. Elnora had a later flight out of Guyana by Caribbean Airways.</p> <p>I do not need to be reminded to avoid Trinidad on the next trip. We had a 4+ hours layover in Miami. The airport was extremely cold. Thank goodness, Diane had a</p>

		sweater. I did not. We called Aaron from Miami. Stained Glass was still in Shiloh, NJ. By the time we arrived, the house was buzzing with a group of musical young adults.
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May you find that this is just a small reflection of the wonderful things that are happening and time we had in Guyana. We look forward to being there again next July, continuing the work of challenging, encouraging and training leaders for the Lord's service among Seventh Day Baptists.

Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and financial support.

Pastor Paul R. & Diane R. Andries