

July 2022

# CURACAO MISSION



*Training for the future*



By Alford Lazar

July 25, 2022

Dear Brethren, we hope everyone is okay by God's grace; we are grateful to Him for his favor, primarily the channels He uses to dispense his goodness in our lives. Indeed, without his help, things would be more challenging for everyone. The covid remains unresolved, but we are learning to cope and work around it daily. These past few months have been our most active moments since the Pandemic. Local leaders have lifted all mask rules, but that does not mean we are out of the woods. The island continues to report increasing covid cases daily. However, we are getting the word out to win lost souls.

In July, we did two gospel activities. First, we conducted a VBS meeting with some neighborhood kids on July 7-9. We didn't know how that would



turn out, but we trusted the Lord for the outcome. Since the Pandemic started, it was the first time we had attempted to host a



VBS. Now, parents have one extra concern before committing their kids to any activity; I guess they prioritize their children's health, which isn't bad. But the VBS activity went well; we maintained the right size throughout the event. The children showed up unmasked but excited to learn about the Lord. We had fewer workers, but more manageable kids came, compensating for the lack. We selected the story of Samuel to teach, from which we pulled "Speak to me, Lord" as the event's theme. Our purpose was to show God's desire to voice his will to young hearts.

Every day, we shared a lesson on Samuel's life and engaged the kids in some practical activities in light of the account. We gave them a quiz on the final day to test their knowledge of the material. Some were pretty sharp with their answers. As usual, VBS would not be complete without some outdoor sports. So, we got the kids out on the field to burn some extra energy before they headed home with some small gift items we had prepared. The time spent on the ballfield was short but meaningful, enough to get them sweating in the blazing heat. That part turned out fine too.

Hence, we value the efforts of everyone who made the event successful. Sister Iris Farrah worked tirelessly in the kitchen to ensure the kids had something to eat daily. One of the mothers also attended and helped by being present; that made quite a difference for her children. Our



youngest student was baby Dion; he is almost a year old.

An

Adventist family allowed their kids to attend the





VBS on Saturday; it shocked me, but I applauded the move. They asked me to follow up with them. I have known the family for a while, but the VBS has strengthened those ties significantly. Moreover, we are grateful to the other families who trusted us with their kids; we take that seriously and inform them about it. As the kids went home, we sent a flyer in their bags thanking the parents for their alliance and advertising the church services in person and online. We also sent it via the phone app digitally so that no one missed our info.



Sharing the gospel with young children is a critical mission; it is challenging, but that's where the future lies. *"Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation,"* said the Late Nelson Mandela (Nelson Mandela (2011). *"Nelson Mandela By Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations,"* p.78, Pan Macmillan). Who can dispute that?

The Bible also offers this advice: *"train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart"* (Prov 22:6).

Last Sunday, we had two of our past youths (adults now) visiting with us in the church: Daphne and Sabrinette. Their presence reminded us of how quickly children develop; it's our mission to train and cultivate those tiny hearts for the future. So, please keep the Curacao kids in your prayers. We hope that many strong leaders will come from them tomorrow.



We also conducted a gospel meeting on July 15-17, featuring "Teach me to do your will." The theme, centered on Psalm 143:10, sought to stir members and visitors, particularly, of the need to acknowledge God's word in scripture. Two of the lessons defined the benefits of teaching and the objective of learning God's will in the scheme of God. Day three focused on David's plea: where to go in search of God's help, how to go, and the Lord's protection while we seek His aid. Brother Randy from Aruba delivered that message to us. He spoke from his bookroom in San Nicolas, Aruba. At the same time, we protected his presentation on a large screen for our in-person and online audience. We broadcast that service on Facebook Live.

Indeed, the workflow was plenty, but we managed it through the Lord's strength. It was exciting too. Before the event, we canvassed some of the neighborhoods inviting and talking with people about the gospel. Surprises and joy were among the things we encountered on the field. One incident turned comic as a little puppy came out to greet me while those in the house did not respond. The tenants had the windows and doors opened. Still, no one answered when I called. Several times I shouted the usual howdy. Then, just when I was about to leave, a little puppy came running toward me, wagging its tail in a friendly mood. Happily, the pet started to follow me as I withdrew from the front yard.

Suddenly, a human voice shouted the puppy's name inside the house. I presume it was the shout of a female, middle age woman. Instantly, I knew someone was inside trying to disguise her presence. Perhaps, she knew it was church-related stuff, so she didn't bother to reply; I guess she didn't have any interest in the word. The incident reminded me of a little child coming to the

door to say, “Mammy says she is not at home.” Of course, the innocent little one told the truth; Mammy only said that. Those are some of the funny moments we experienced on the field. But that’s okay. Jesus said, “dust off the dust from your feet against those homes that show no interest in the word of the kingdom.” (Luke 10). On the other hand, they do us a service that we do not have to waste precious time with uninterested persons. One closed door may lead to many opened hearts, folks who want to hear about Jesus.

Other people were thrilled to hear of our online presence; many faces brightened up, knowing they could access our live meetings via the digital platforms. I met some on their phones and used the occasion to show how easy it is for them to hear God’s word every time the church meets for services or if the person misses a scheduled meeting. Some were happy to know that. Hence, we hope many will learn the gospel through the videos stored on the online system. On YouTube alone, we have over 400 videos on various topics. Last month, we also began a brand-new series entitled **"Back to Basic Bible Doctrines."** The goal is to present simple lessons so people can learn the truth about salvation in Christ in a down-to-earth manner. For example, we taught "Who is Jesus?" and showed that he is God's Son; we highlighted four ways son/sonship appears in the New Testament. I felt the lesson is an eye-opener for our audience. Furthermore, it is critical to our position in Christ because everything depends on His divinity in Christianity. No one can come to the Father except through the Son.



Also, we made some new contacts and stirred some old ones during the event. The meeting was short, three nights, but given the covid issue, we felt it was the right approach to limit those days for public gatherings. But it did not end without watering some seeds we had sown.

On Saturday, July 23, we were privileged to baptize Dieulene Joseph into Christ.



After Months of online studies, Dieulene finally yielded to Christ in baptism. It was not the first time she had informed us of her desire. Dieulene did postpone the dates on two occasions. The Last time, I



decided to study with her until she understood the need for the gospel in her life. She continued attending the services. However, at the start of the campaign, Dieulene informed me about her decision to be baptized. To avoid another disappointment,



I called on Friday (July 22) to be sure she was ready to immerse into Christ. This time she decided that she would not allow anything to stand in her way. So, we picked her up at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday; we arrived 10 minutes before the hour; still, she was ready to





go. We drove down to Piscadera bay, one of the world's largest baptisteries encircled by nature's finest sights, crystal clear water with blue skies above, which only God could have designed so uniquely to bring souls into obedience to his will. After a brief review and devotion that included a prayer by brother



Alexander, one of our members, Dieulene, walked through the steps of Bible Baptism. The photos re-enact the exact process one must follow in baptism according to the New Testament; that is, the prospect went toward the



water, unto it; down underneath the water, baptized by immersing, not sprinkling or pouring, and came up from under the water. Finally, Dieulene strolled out of the water to begin her new life with Christ. The old journalistic quote states: "a picture speaks a thousand words." Indeed, those pictures remind us of the truth of scripture. We are happy for Dieulene and thank God for her decision to obey the gospel. Please, keep her in your thoughts and prayers (Matt 3:15-17, Acts 8:36-39).

Church meets for worship: July 24, 2022, still in covid mode.



Well, we thank you for supporting the preaching of the gospel in Curacao. The law of sowing and reaping states that we cultivate the things we plant. So, keep us in your prayers as we continue to teach the truth of God. Hopefully, I will speak to you in person soon. So, please keep that trip in your prayers; I look forward to it. In the meantime, give our greetings to everyone, from Alford, Patricia, and Precious Lazar.

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