



Reformation Christian Ministries

Poettcker's Prayer Partners

March – April 2007

Greetings to you in Him Who supplies all our needs!

I would sincerely invite you to read the Scripture on the right and think prayerfully about it.

May you be assured that your liberality causes thanksgiving to God on our behalf and is an administration of service that supplies our needs.

In this PPP I want to focus on the needs for teachers, which we have each year at CLA (Christian Liberty Academy). It is my prayer that you may see how you can be of service so that the Lord will provide for this need.

In a sense my “dream” is that we would have such a flood of interest that we would be able to see the Lord provide teachers well in advance, and thus remove some of the pressure we face as we plan and prepare for each school year. However, perhaps the Lord wants us to trust Him to provide this year by year! Pray for the process we are now going through in regards to an applicant, and the need we have for two more (three in total).

Please consider the need and do all you can to talk of this need to others who you know and who may be interested in helping us. To help you in this, I have interviewed Courtney and Greta regarding their experience of working at CLA; please show it to others in the hopes that it might interest them.

Interview of experiences in Suriname!

I have asked both ladies to respond to questions and I will give their answers, with a bit of summarizing due to lack of space.

1). What is the most surprising thing to you about living and working in Suriname?.

Courtney: ...that I'd be teaching math as well as English...I was expecting a more formal introduction to teaching when I first started...as for living here I give thanks to the Lord how easily I have adjusted to feeling at home here.

Greta: Dealing with students was not as hard as I thought...students have never revolted and said “you're too young to teach”...I was able to get used to the climate...I'm rarely very homesick...how much I love mangoes and pepper.

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.¹² For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God.

[2Cor. 9:10-12]



Courtney Withington teaching English



Greta Visscher teaching a math class

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2). What have you liked the most about living and working in Suriname?.

Courtney: *I like interacting with the students and working alongside other teachers here...very pleased with the working environment at CLA...I appreciate the accountability I have with those living around me.*

Greta: *...being able to talk about God during literature classes...getting to know my students...exploring the country...getting to know (others here)...they have all made a difference in my life.*

3). What have you disliked the most about living and working in Suriname?.

Courtney: *...fulfilling my role as disciplinarian in the class... I especially do not like the way women are flagrantly sexualized here...I often feel my sex is a disadvantage to be respected among the male students especially.*

Greta: *The lack of light in the apartment and feeling of being closed in on the compound...if I get a chance to go running it is usually OK...being whistled/hissed at while walking down the road – always feeling conspicuous when...in public.*

4). What, if any, do you wish you had known in advance before coming to Suriname?.

Courtney: *I would have liked some idea of the school year schedule...quarter plans from the previous year...I would have had some sense of what the year was going to look like.*

Greta: *It would have been nice to see last year’s lesson plans...I had no idea what I would be teaching beyond the course name.*

5). What advice, if any, would you give to someone who is considering coming to Suriname?.

Courtney: *I would encourage them to ask all the questions they can think of...no reason to stay in the dark, so ask! ...talking with more experienced teachers one-on-one about how to prepare for teaching...especially someone who has taught abroad before.*

Greta: *...personal maturity is huge...know something about education – ask questions of former teachers, read books, volunteer in local classrooms a bit...have your faith figured out ahead of time.*

6). Do you feel that you were well-prepared for coming to Suriname?.

Courtney: *...I was pretty well prepared – a lot of people were praying for me, and still are. I had forgotten to get some anti-biotic cream...I got to learn why that comes in handy. Two things I wished I had...more pictures from home...my big Oxford English Dictionary.*

Greta: *I was as prepared as I could have been...doing something like this will always be a leap of faith...*

7). If the Administration were to invite you to, would you consider returning to Suriname?.

Courtney: *It is too early for me to say...*

Greta: *...I prayed about it, largely because my experience has been so positive so far, but I feel that I need to finish my degree back home...*

8). Do you sense the support and care of Administration...and of co-workers?

Courtney: *Yes! Everyone has been eager to help me...*

Greta: *Yes Mr. Hamid has been extremely helpful...yes...everyone else is very kind, and has treated me as a colleague...*

9). Any general comments?

Courtney: *I’ve enjoyed my experience...been able to experience being part of a community of believers here.*

Greta: *I greatly enjoyed the church community and the fellowship of First Presbyterian Church. I feel that I am growing in my faith as a result of being here.*

SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR PRAYER:

- Pray for ongoing work in course development & my work as Dean of Studies with RCM (there is much to do!).
- Pray for Sharilyn in her work as oncology nurse.
- Pray for continued donations for our ministry support.
- Pray for need to find teachers for the High School, especially for next year’s English classes.
- Pray for my trip to Suriname in May (for help in church and for school’s year-end and graduation).



Greta and Courtney in “teacher’s room” in office

Look for other pictures and articles at the RCM web site:

www.reformation.ws

NOTE: We have a new address (see above)!

To be added to our mailing list, or to make a donation, please cut and send to: [or email to: rep@reformation.edu]

Reformation Christian Ministries. FOR: S.A.L.T. (Scriptural Advanced Leadership Training)

U.S.A.: 13950 - 122 St. Fellsmere, FL. 32948-6411. Phone (772) 571-8833. Fax (772) 571-8010

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(NOTE: Please make all checks payable to “Reformation Christian Ministries” and designate:

(A) To “S.A.L.T.” for our ministry support, OR (B) To “CLA Fire Relief” for reconstruction of school.

(All donations are tax exempt in the U.S. and eligible for charity receipts in Canada)