

Guyana Mission Work

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Gateway's history of mission work in Guyana, South America, began in 1993. David Mullins had spent six months as a guest instructor at the Guyana International Bible Institute (GIBI) in Georgetown. During this time David's wife, Doris, along with two other ladies from the United States, Eunice Conn and Clarice Arnold were conducting home Bible studies in Georgetown, using World Bible School (WBS) material.

David and Doris returned to Pensacola and shared with the elders their excitement about one of the GIBI students, H M Latchmenarine. H M was older than most of the students (he was 43), and was determined to preach in the Northwest District (NWD) of Guyana following his graduation from school.

We learned that "H" and "M" were not initials, but that "H M" stood for "Head Master." H M had left a prestigious position in the public school system to pursue his passion – sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with his countrymen in the isolated NWD of Guyana. The elders and the Gateway church family agreed to support H M, his wife, Imelda, and their four children Nalini (21), Radika (19), Joe (17) and Candita (9).

H M and family moved to Mabaruma in the NWD (150 air miles from Georgetown) to establish the church throughout the area. Over the course of ten years, H M's leadership resulted in the establishment of eight congregations of the church.

In 2003, H M requested that he and Imelda be allowed to return to Georgetown, where H M would work to establish a preacher/teacher training school to replace the one he had attended. (The administrators of the earlier school opted to close the school, and return to the United States). H M's plan included that his son, Joe (who had become an active assistant to H M in the churches in the NWD), would continue the work in the NWD. This all came to pass.

Today, the Guyana School of Biblical Studies (GSBS) is fulfilling its mission of preparing young men and women to be leaders in the Lord's church throughout the entire country of Guyana. All the while, the churches in the NWD continue to mature, under the leadership of Joe Latchmenarine.

We at Gateway are blessed to be an integral part of the missionary team that is engaged in Kingdom work in Guyana, South America.