



E-UPDATE



A publication of Operation Guyana, Steve DeLoach, Director
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Medical and Nurturing Missions in Guyana, South America

After Flood Waters, Cleanup Begins

From Steve DeLoach

Guyana Needs Will Be Long-Term, Great

When I came to Guyana Jan. 12, little did I know what was in store.

Between Dec. 26 and the end of January, parts of Guyana had received more than 60 inches of rain, the most ever in recorded history. There was no place for it to drain and it backed up, flooding many homes and businesses.

Many people lost everything they had. A common question, after recovering from the shock of the immediate situation, is where do I go from here?

That reaction is, of course, understandable. When you have lost everything, where do you go?

Because of the great loss, the needs for the people will be great—and long-term.

Once they are fed and clothed, there will begin the job of rebuilding lives. Crops have been lost. Homes will need to be cleaned out because of the standing water. Furniture may not be salvageable.

Once we had had a chance to assess the situation with leaders of the churches in Guyana, we set a goal of \$100,000 US for both short-term and long-term needs. As with any situation, that assessment is subject to change as time goes on.

What a fantastic response we have had to the pleas for help! So far, you have donated more than \$65,000 to relief efforts. Praise God for that!

However, as we step into the next stage of relief, needs will change. Many will need long-term help with shelter and household belongings. And they will need help with another danger: disease.

More than 40 people have already died from disease following the flood. That is why we will continue to need funds for cleanup supplies, especially cleaners and disinfectants.

Please don't think the funding needs are over because of the amount raised. Visit us at the website to keep up to date on the relief situation and continue to pray for us and the work in Guyana.

God bless each of you!



This rainbow appeared over Georgetown earlier this week, hopefully signifying the end of the flood.

(Thanks to Bryan Mackintosh for use of this photo)

A total of \$65,000 has been raised so far in flood relief efforts in Guyana, according to Steve DeLoach, director of Operation Guyana.

“Our first objective was to get food out to the people as quickly as possible,” DeLoach explained. “But after conferring with leaders of congregations in the area, we decided to set a goal of \$100,000 US for short- and long-term needs.

“That assessment, of course, is subject to change as needs change.”

Thus far, the organization has distributed about 36 tons of food, 10 tons of cleaning supplies and have plans for more in the very near future.

“There are people who still have water in their homes,” DeLoach pointed out, “and have had for over four weeks! Disease is also becoming a major problem. Hundreds are presently sick, and we have around 40 deaths related to health issues from the flooding.

“People ask how they can help. Here is how:

“First, keep praying for us and that the flooding will stop and the disease will go away.

“Second, send financial help. We are going to try to help as much as we can to get the basics back, but that will be determined by donations.

“Third, make plans to come this summer. Many people are becoming receptive to the gospel of Christ and the message will give us an opportunity to shine like never before.”

For a more detailed rundown, visit www.guyana-missions.org and click on the links there.

“Through their poverty and distress,” DeLoach continued, “the brethren have given of their time, efforts and resources in ways that can only be described as inspirational.

“We pray God will continue to bless our efforts and all those Christians associated with it.”