



# The MARINERS

CHURCH PLANTERS IN SURINAME

FEBRUARY 2026

*Dear Praying Friends*

## Family Update

We must share with you the news that Emily experienced a miscarriage on December 26<sup>th</sup> while in Suriname. We are grateful for God's sufficient grace as we navigate this bereavement. We are also grateful for the support of so many local friends, other missionaries, and partner churches who supported us through this time. We returned to the U.S.A. on January 8<sup>th</sup> in accordance to our previously planned furlough trip. We will adapt travel plans as necessary. We trust that God will use this time of stateside ministry to refresh and renew us and to stir hearts for missions, in Suriname and around the world. We are eager to return to ministry in Suriname following this trip!

## Building Dedication

We reported our complete church renovation in our last letter. Our inaugural dedication service in the renewed space took place in December. We had over **90 people** in attendance with visitors from several sister churches. Seeing believers from Mulism, Hindu, Catholic, and other backgrounds of all different ethnicities and languages worship and fellowship together reminded me of the unity we have in Christ Jesus. It was a brief glimpse of eternity in Heaven where we will gather around His throne in eternal worship!

## Mission Sunday

The job of a church planting missionary is to plant churches that plant yet more churches. To that end we had our first mission emphasis Sunday. We held this special occasion on the first Sunday of the New Year. It was a special blessing to hear from two dear brothers, one from the Netherlands and one a local Surinamese, both of whom serve to evangelize the Amerindians (indigenous peoples) in the remote, jungle interior. Our people were encouraged and challenged to hear about the unique challenges of interior ministry and how they can partner and participate through praying, giving, and going!



## Prayer Requests

- Physical and Emotional Healing following the loss of our baby.
- Traveling mercies as we visit church in the U.S.A.
- God's Blessing on the church in Suriname, especially as we are away

*MARK & EMILY*

**MISSION BOARD**  
**BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS INC.**  
 Acct. # 1615  
 P.O. Box #9  
 Harrison, TN 37341  
 biml.org

**PERSONAL CONTACT**  
 +1 423 509 6152  
**Mailing Address**  
 7438 Chad Rd. Harrison, TN 37341  
 marinerstosuriname@gmail.com

**SENDING CHURCH**  
**LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 6626 Hunter Road  
 Harrison, TN 37341  
 (423)344-6334  
 lakewoodbc.com