

Exciting April!

Update on Steven Dickens, NICS missionary to: Paramaribo, Suriname, South America

Go into all the world and teach the gospel to
all creation. ~ Mark 16:14



Go therefore and make disciples of
all the nations, baptizing them in the
name of the father, the son, and the
holy spirit, teaching them to observe
all that I have commanded you.

~Matthew 28:19

Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only. – *James 1:22*

Speaking to Kids

One opportunity I had during the month of April was to give the message at our bimonthly youth group. The youth group is run by two parents, and I, along with another teacher, help out. The format is pretty simple. Students assemble at a location between 6:00 - 7:00 PM and just hang out until everyone arrives. Around 7:00 we say grace and then share a meal together. After dinner one person gives a short “sermon” to illustrate some aspect of God’s truth. Then games are played until 9:00 at which point the students go home. The entire evening is planned by students at a youth group steering committee meeting, which I also sit on.

Because this was the first time that I would address the youth group outside of school, I decided to start where any good speaker should: the beginning. Two years of teaching speech in Alaska taught me that every speaker first needs to establish ethos (prestige). In other words, I first needed to establish myself as a Christian before any of these students would take what I had to say to heart.

To achieve that goal I decided to give my testimony (the story of how I came to know Christ). To do that I decided to focus on three main events in my life: how I found God, how I came to know what a Christian was, and last, how I came to know and accept Christ. I spoke for seventeen minutes and used Philippians 3:10-11 as my theme, closing with Colossians 2:6-7.



ACS Building Dedication

Last year the American Cooperative School decided to add another wing to its building. In less than a year, record time, the building was completed. The new building includes four new classrooms, an atrium, and a conference room. Woods indigenous to Suriname were used to build the stairwells, and the whole building integrates seamlessly with the old.

After three school quarters of using the new building it was finally time to cut the ribbon and dedicate as an official part of the school. The head of the American Embassy, an official from the Suriname Chamber of Commerce, news reporters, and school board members were all invited. The building dedication was done on the same night as the Science Fair, Fine Arts Festival, and school Open House. It was a complete success and several perspective students showed up to see what ACS is all about. Praise God!



US Ambassador, Me, Chamber of Commerce Preident

More photos! Past newsletters!
Get them at:
<http://sdickens.tripod.com>

The value of persistent prayer is not that he will hear us...but that we will finally hear him. – William McGill

The Book of Hope

Some of you may be familiar with a missions organization called the Book of Hope. The organization publishes all four gospels and the first two books of acts in what they call “The Book of Hope.” The books is not arranged in the traditional order, however. Rather, the verses are arranged

b o o k
n o v e l,
i n
d e r,
s o
i t
l o n g

P e o p l e
o f
h o p e
o n
d o w n
w a s
i n -
e n c e
t h e i r



Team leader Matt Wilke and me

so that the
reads like a
sequential or-
reads as one
story.

from the book
recently came
to Suriname. I
vited to experi-
ministry as

they had a youth night for students in a Surinamese village an hour out of town. Many students from the local school there showed up to praise God and learn more about the hope that Jesus brings. By the end of the evening fourteen youth dedicated their lives to Christ! Praise God!

The group I met with travels around South America, mostly talking to schools and churches. At the same time, they train other youth to do what they do so that after the Book of Hope team leaves, the work can be continued. Please pray for their continued success.

Visit the South American Team!
<http://www.aroundtheworldwithjesus.com>

Eclectic Student Body

The American Cooperative School has students from all over the world! In my 7th grade homeroom class alone I have students from: the United States of America, Holland, Indonesia, and India.

In other classes I have students from: Ghana, Suriname, China, Canada, Trinidad, and Mexico. Here are a two photos of the students I teach.



Left: my 7th grade homeroom class.
Above: 7th/8th grade students.

New Travel Plans

Suriname Airways has never been allowed to fly into the United States, since the Suriname Airport is not FAA compliant. As a result, flights were always operated by Miami Air. Unfortunately, the contract ran out and was not renewed, which left me holding a ticket for a plane that no longer went stateside. As it turns out, this was a blessing in disguise. When my previous ticket was exchanged for a ticket with the new airline, I was able to pick a new travel date. Instead of returning to the US on June 18, I will now be returning on June 14!

Running countdown timer 'til I return!
See the Suriname Section of my website.