

Reaching every *Nation*One *Ship* at a time.



Important Ministry Update I hope all is well in your corner of the harvest field. We truly appreciate your

fellowship with us in the work of the Lord. I am writing to you because our family will be making a transition to a new field in the near future and I just wanted you to hear the story and know what God has been doing.

In January, we were asked by veteran missionary Dean Runyon to take full responsibility for the mission work started in Port Kaituma, Guyana. This is not the first time we have been offered to pastor or assume responsibility for a work, but this place and these people are very near and dear to our hearts.

It has been more than a decade since I first set my feet on Guyanese soil, and God placed such a burden on my heart for the people that I just had to keep coming back. During my four years of Bible college, I made eight trips into Guyana. On one occasion, I lived in Port Kaituma for over three months. After graduation, I took another trip there with my family. On this trip, I proposed marriage to my best friend on the banks of the Essequibo river. She said yes, and we committed our lives to serve the Lord together, and have been seeking to follow the Lord's will ever since.

At the end of my time in Bible college, I had planned on moving to Guyana as a missionary, but my pastor, parents, and the Spirit of God led me to wait. With a broken heart, I began to seek the Lord's new direction for my life. At this time, it became clear that God wanted us to serve in the port ministry in Norfolk, Virginia. We said "yes" to the Lord and for the last five years have fully committed ourselves to the task set before us. During this time, we have learned the ministry, gained access to many terminals, purchased a ministry van, acquired Scripture in many languages, preached onboard over five hundred ships, ministered to over twelve thousand five hundred crew from forty seven countries, established relationships, built a website and furnished a free online Bible School for seafarers. All glory to God! We are standing on the shoulders of great men and women.

The port ministry here in Virginia was started by the late Brother Jerry Matson. While visiting him on his deathbed, he told me these words that I have never forgotten. "Brother Blake, it is truly my prayer that God would direct you to come here and continue this great ministry. But if not, this has been the Lord's ministry from the beginning and now I commit it back into His hands." Bro Matson never knew this side of heaven that we would carry on the work.

Now, as my heart breaks over the thought of leaving this great work behind without anyone to take up the mantle, I am reminded of those words. Now it is my turn. We have presented this ministry in two hundred congregations around the country and pleaded with them to consider this great work. No laborers. We wrote a booklet to show the opportunity we have been given to reach the world right from our front doorstep and we have been distributing these booklets far and wide. Nothing. Since January we have been fervently praying for God to send us someone to carry on the work. No reply. Now, it is my turn to take this wonderful ministry and place it back into the wounded hands of our worthy Savior. It is He that must call the laborers, not I. If we were not absolutely certain of God's leading, we would not be leaving this great work.

Now, we look forward with excitement on all the Lord has for us to do for Him in Guyana. There is a body of believers in Port Kaituma, waiting for us to "come over and help" them. The need is great, but the need is also eminent. Lighthouse Baptist Church has been through much suffering in the last several years. They are so hungry for the Word of God and eager to have someone to help lead them. This is our desire.

TIMELINE: We will be leading a team into Guyana in November along with Brother Runyon. This will be his final trip to Guyana. At that time, He will publicly and officially turn over the responsibility of Lighthouse Baptist Church to us. Upon our return, we will be working to sell our house and prepare to travel for the next several months to raise more support. We hope to be finished with this furlough by the end of the summer in 2025.

We Need Your HELP:

- 1. If you plan to continue our support but require us to come and represent our ministry, please let us know so we can begin working our travel schedule.
- 2. If you plan to continue our support but do not need us to represent our ministry, please let us know so that we can focus on raising additional support as quickly as possible.
- If you plan to cancel our support, we absolutely understand. Please lêt us know so that we can account for that in our support goals..

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, complaints, or thoughts, please feel free to email, call, or text me! Thank you once again for your faithful support of our family thus far. We literally could not do what we do without you!



SUPPORT ADDRESS

Macedonia World Baptist Missions P.O. Box 519 Braselton, GA 30517 (Bloke Muscott on note line) Carefully Following our Shepherd, Brother Blake 352.299.4461

SENDING CHURCH

THE BIBLE Baptist Church Pastor James Knox JamesWKnox.org

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