

# The Precious Seed of Mission Work

The extended Gomes family  
after confession of faith of John & Jocelyn Gomes

Grant & Vonessa (Gomes) Van Assen

Jocelyn & John Gomes

Alney Gomes

*March-May 2009*  
*News and Prayer Letter*

Read their full story on-line at <http://www.reformation.edu/suriname/pix-reports/pix-reports-gomes.htm>



# Reformation Christian Ministries

## News & Prayer Letter

### March-May 2009

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh...They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. [James 5:7-8, Psalm 126:5-6]

What true Christian has not wearied themselves in prayer and tears longing for the salvation of family members, friends or others? We long for the Lord's righteousness to show itself even in our own sinful selves!

This same "long patience" is required by the businessman, farmer, parent or any other person who sow in tears of faith in hopes of reaping with joy. And sometimes after a very long time of such sowing, the Lord gives us our sheaves. Heaven's eternity is our ultimate sheave, but God's mercy encourages us along the way with stories such as the following.



Alney, Ron & Vonessa Gomes for 1st day of school 1982

In 1982, while I was living and working in Suriname, the Gomes family heard about our "English" and "Christian" school. They decided to send their children to the school, and shortly after, at our invitation, permitted the children to come to church. Because they were young children and lived a long way from school, they had to be driven by school or church bus. I personally picked up the children in the church bus for awhile. The father was a professional underwater gold explorer in the interior of French Guiana and Suriname and away much of the time.

Later on, Mr. Gomes quit diving to work in Paramaribo where they lived. In the mean time, the girls became members of the church, and all of the children graduated from the school, Vonessa, Ron and Alney.



After graduation, Vonessa and Alney began working for our school. Vonessa became a teacher and Alney worked



Vonessa & Alney Gomes

in the library. After the 2003 school fire (see fire report), Grant VanAssen came from Neerlandia, Alberta (Canada) to assist in the rebuilding of the school. Eventually, he met and later married Vonessa Gomes in December, 2005.

The gospel began to take root in the girls through both church and school leading not only to confessions of faith and church membership, but also careers and even marriage. God reached out through a myriad of circumstances to those who otherwise seemed unreachable. On numerous occasions, during those early years, we invited Mr. & Mrs. Gomes to church, and while they sent their children, they never came themselves. Their son Ron followed their example. But God's providence would soon change things—prayer works.



Grant & Vonessa (Gomes) Van Assen

In 2005, Mrs. Gomes suffered a serious stroke. The church began to pray. Mr & Mrs. Gomes heard about this and after her release from the hospital and recovery, they began attending church in 2007. As a result of hearing the gospel and seeing the changes that had taken place in the lives of their daughters, on March 8, 2009, John & Jocelyn Gomes made confessions of faith, were baptized and received as members of the First Presbyterian Church. All of this resulted from initial contacts made 27 years earlier when they heard about the "English"



Christian school. Their son Ron is attending church along with his three children. The light of the glorious gospel through these many years of long patience is bringing transformation to this family and is bearing precious fruit. God honors prayer.

Evangelism and discipleship take time, but when surrounded by faithful and long patient prayers, God sends his rains, even latter rains and through His abiding providence, draws His people near to Himself. As we continue in our efforts with your support and prayer behind us, we expect to see many more such examples. Be encouraged, we are.

See our website version of this at <http://www.reformation.edu/suriname/pix-reports/pix-reports-gomes.htm>

Geoffrey Donnan

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# RCM Update

## HQ Briefs

**RCM WEBSITE HACKED!!** We are terribly sorry that we have missed several months of newsletters, however, our website was hacked twice requiring us to spend an inordinate amount of time cleaning it up and then restoring it. As soon as we had this done the first time, it happened again and we had to repeat the whole process. We have gone far enough to know that the hackers had secured our password, were using a Russian IP address, and diverting traffic to a malicious Chinese website. We don't know who they are, or even if they were Russian or Chinese since it is a simple matter for a good hacker to pose behind a number of public faces. While there is no evidence this was anything anti-Christian, it clearly is evil and thus of the devil. We do not keep any sensitive data on our website and our computers are not accessible from outside the office, so there was nothing compromised. We have made a number of security enhancements as a result.

**RCM Financial Condition:** RCM has suffered from the recession like most other non-profit organizations. We continue to meet our obligations, but our giving is down some 35% which will force us to make some HQ cutbacks and services to the mission fields. We ask for your prayers and help. We were encouraged by one of our regular donors who wrote the following to us:

*Hi Geoffrey, These past several months have been a financial disaster for us. We lost 80% of our stock and 80% of our income. Praise the Lord, He did allow us to be very wealthy for a period of time and not have to worry about counting our pennies. We have no more stock that we can give out. We will be sending you a check each month (as long as we are able to do so) for \$50. God Bless, C & M, Cape Coral, FL.*

**RCM's On-Line bookstore: GORCM.ORG** is the name of the new RCM on-line book, media and items store which should be launched by the time you receive this newsletter. Our offerings will be expanding once we get launched. Your purchases from RCM will help support our other work. Donations and school fees can also be paid here.

**OUR DIRECTOR'S HEALTH:** Director Geoff Donnan underwent another CT Scan on May 21 on his heart to check on the progress of the status of the plaque build up in his heart arteries. In February there was indication that soft plaque was again building up, but after some aggressive diet, drug management, exercise and stress management (more on that in another newsletter), the May scan showed no signs of plaque buildup, and a reversal in one of the three arteries. This is very good news. Thanks for your prayers.

**IN-DESIGN DESKTOP PUBLISHING, GRAPHIC DESIGN** publishing marketing person needed for RCM's publishing efforts. Must have experience to major distribution channels (academic, library and major wholesalers).

**WEBSITES** RCM's websites have all new URL's and many new features. Old links have all disappeared, so if you have specific places bookmarked, please revisit the site and rebookmark your favorite locations. Many new pages.

## Urgently Needed

### Missionary Teacher in Suriname

A committed believer willing to serve as a teacher/helper in a Christian School in Suriname, South America. The new school year begins August 10/2009. We especially need someone to work in the Senior High School. Teaching experience is not necessary, the courses are prepared, and training provided. Living costs are provided but flight costs must be covered. Donations for costs are tax-exempt. It is a great opportunity and very rewarding!



Lance Visser (left) has completed two years of missionary teaching service in Suriname. See our website for his and other interviews of missionary teachers about their experience of teaching at our school in Suriname.

<http://reformation.edu/suriname/pages/teachers-needed.htm>

## Mission Field Briefs

### Dr. John Byl speaks in Albania.

Scientist/astronomer Dr. John Byl of Trinity Western University in Vancouver spoke in both Durrës and Tiranë May 21-24 on Christianity and science issues. Dr. Byl is a member of the Canadian Reformed Church, and also serves on various college board. He attended conferences in London and Greece. As funding becomes available, we have invitations for him to visit Russia as well.



Dr. John Byl speaking to First Presbyterian Church, Durrës. He also spoke to a group of medical students in Tiranë (the capitol).



Dr. John Byl surrounded by the Doka family (on left is Enkeleida and Sara and on right is Nardi). While in Albania, he did some touring and also spoke three different times on science and Bible topics and also met some people about future speaking.



Mission Field Briefs (cont'd)

**Rev. Asgar Hamid (20 Years of Service)**

**SURINAME:** Rev. Asgar Hamid (top picture on right, at right, Rev. Poettcker on left) receives a special 20th Anniversary gift for his service at Christian Liberty Academy of Paramaribo. He began his service in 1989. Prior to that he had been a student in the school, along with his wife. His intention at one time was to be a pilot, but the Lord convinced him otherwise. He came to the school as a Christian in a local Baptist church. After graduation, he began as an administrative assistant under Rev. Donnan (then headmaster) and Mitchell Persaud (then school administrator). After Mr. Persaud (now Rev.) left the school for theological studies in the United States, an Executive Committee took over on which Mr. Hamid served.

Asgar was later promoted to Administrator and Rev. Poettcker then came in 1994 and took over his theological training under RCM's seminary program. This eventually led to his call and ordination to the pastorate of First Presbyterian Church of Paramaribo where he has served ever since.

Since the Poettckers left Suriname residence in 2006, Rev. Hamid is now responsible for most of the school activities and church activities in his absence.

We are truly proud of the Lord's service through him and pray for his continued work in bringing both the gospel and its implications to Suriname and its surrounding countries and through its students, to many countries around the world.

Truly, as we have gone forth with weeping, bearing precious seed, we have in such examples, come again with rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us. Thank you for your part.



**Above:** Rev. Rudy Poettcker (left) presents Rev. Asgar Hamid with 20th Anniversary of Service gift from the school and RCM.



**Left:** Rev. Asgar Hamid and family (left to right: Abigail, Nirmala, Elizabeth, Asgar, Timothy James aka T.J.)

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I would like to assist with the college and/or seminary program. I am sending a resume.

Please add this/these person(s) on your newsletter/e-mail list:

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