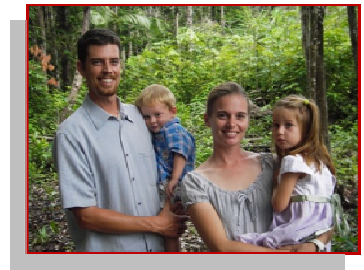




*Gilbert and Melissa Sissons
Bethany Medical Missionary College
Guyana, South America*

March 18, 2008



Timber!!!

During the summer of 2007, we gave a mission update at the Redding SDA Church in Northern California. After our presentation, Kent Dacre, a local church member, wanted to know if a portable Wood Mizer sawmill would help speed up our work of building while at the same time providing better material. Previously, all our framing material

was cut by free hand using a chainsaw and many times produced poor quality materials. Unfortunately, the two men who were cutting the majority of our materials have left our village leaving us in a tough spot. After much hard work by Mr. Dacre and the Redding SDA Church, all the funds were raised for the saw mill and it was transported to Guyana. Since the time of the saw mills arrival in Bethany, it has proven itself to be a tremendous asset. We have been able to cut studs for interior work in our main school building as well as our woman’s dormitory and it is currently cutting materials for our hand rail around the main school building.



We have many plans to keep the saw mill working! Our wood shop materials will be needed by September, 2008. We are thankful for those who have already contributed \$1,500 out of the needed \$20,000 for this project. In the fall of 2008, we will also

Saw Mill in operation

begin construction of our chapel which will be made

using purple heart wood. We are looking forward to having this beautiful location set aside for worshipping God. Thankfully, we have already received \$7,300 out of the needed \$15,000 for this project.

We are also hoping to build a mission house in a nearby village called Mashabo. For the last two years, our students and staff have been active in medical missionary work in Mashabo and have realized the need for more full time work. We have already made contact with the village counsel who indicated that our partnership with their village would be a wonderful blessing.

As you can see, our portable sawmill has lots of cutting to do in advancing the Lord’s work. As a side note, when we acquire logs for the saw mill, we cut just the tree down that we need. Acres and acres are not cleared and burned for a few trees. Our jungle is healthy and thriving and we are thankful for God’s beautiful environment.



Chain saw wood (on top) versus saw mill wood (on bottom)

Mission Trip Completed

For the fourth time, Ed Zimmerman has returned to BMMC to advance the work. He was accompanied by Perry Kargas and Bob Swenson who were at BMMC last year working on our water/electrical system. Gary, Patty, and Trinton Lyons were also a nice addition to this group. It was wonderful to see so many different projects completed during their short stay on our campus.

We finally were able to have the inside of the woman’s dormitory painted with the aid of a donated airless sprayer from the group which tremendously sped up the work. In addition to painting the woman’s dorm, both dormitories were wired, and a few lights were installed in our school building and kitchen. Our kitchen was



also improved by the installation of a UV water purifier and filter. Our drinking water is now much safer and better. What a blessing! Nine of our campus showers were plumbed and tiled and our solar system was fine tuned to maximize the amount of energy we can obtain and store in our batteries. In addition, a new and improved water wheel was installed which will provide continuous energy for our campus. Many of our buildings were also outfitted with railings which improved the ascetics and safety of each structure. All of our floors will be looking much better “just now” as the group also brought a floor sander which will help our rough and uneven wooden floors become beautiful.



Water wheel making hydro-energy



Using the airless painter and the UV water filter

In addition to construction and work on campus by the men, Patti organized cooking classes and two health outreach programs for the children were very popular with the local villager. We are so thankful for these hard working missionaries who have helped our campus grow, develop, and become more efficient.

Guest Teachers-Making a BIG difference

It is always a blessing to have guest teachers come and share their knowledge with our students. Melissa’s father, Richard Post, taught a class on the book *Steps to Christ*. By the end of the class, they had all learned very well the main point - “Righteousness by Faith in Christ Alone- Plus or Minus Nothing!!!” Melissa’s mother, Barbara Post, helped the students improve their medical terminology as well as pharmacology and disease identification skills. Ed Zimmerman had the “early bird” 6:00am class on the importance of prayer. He brought out vital lessons from the Bible on how our prayers are answered, and why prayer is so essential if we are to maintain a close walk with our Lord.

In Christ’s service,

Gilbert and Melissa Sissons

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*Tax deductible donations can be made payable to:
Gospel Ministries International
P.O. Box 506
Collegedale, TN 37315*

**Please include a separate note indicating “Sissons/Bethany Project” to insure we receive the needed funds.*