



Praise the Lord:

- 1. God’s protection and provision.
- 2. The opportunity to minister at a recent funeral.

Please Pray for:

- 1. Strength and continued ability to minister.
- 2. Salvation of the lost.
- 3. Victory for those struggling with addiction
- 4. Truck with a snowplow
- 5. Another couple to work with us.

2 Corinthians 12:9a “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

The Apostle Paul opens his heart and shares the burdens and struggles he faced in his ministry. He came to realize that in his weakness, he must depend on God’s strength. Following Paul’s example—not to compare myself to him, but to follow his lead—I, Bob, want to share something I am struggling with. . .

In 1993, Cindy and I began our journey to the mission field. During the two and a half years on deputation, I was diagnosed with Meniere’s disease in my left ear. This is a disorder of the inner ear in which an abnormal amount of fluid builds up and disrupts the delicate balance and hearing mechanisms. This is characterized by episodes of vertigo, fluctuating hearing loss, tinnitus, and pressure in the affected ear. It affects equilibrium and auditory function, causing unpredictable and sometimes debilitating episodes that interfere with daily life and activities. Over time, the progressive damage to the inner ear often leads to permanent hearing loss or deafness in the affected ear. To remain in Suriname’s tropical climate, I had a radical surgery to sever the vestibular nerve, therefore eliminating the vertigo. This allowed us to remain on the field. After 30 years, the Meniere’s disease persisted and progressed to the point where I now have little to no hearing in my left ear. I wear a cross-over hearing aid to assist with my hearing on my left side. Now, after many years of struggling with hearing loss in my left ear, a new problem emerged last spring.



Special Need:

Due to heavy winter snowfall, we believe we need to purchase a pickup truck with a snowplow. This truck would be used to plow the church lot and our home parking area. We could also use it to haul wood when our 21-year-old truck gives up the ghost. Our goal is to raise approximately \$40,000.00. With this amount, we believe we could purchase a reliable used truck and snowplow. We ask you to pray for this project. If you would like to contribute, please send the funds to our mission in our name, **marked "Snowplow."**

I began experiencing a loss of hearing in my right ear, followed by more vertigo attacks. Although the attacks were not as severe as I remembered, they were still unpleasant. I consulted a doctor who referred me to an ENT who diagnosed the condition as bilateral Meniere's disease. This means the condition affects both ears, leading to more significant challenges with balance and hearing.

In managing the disease, I am now following a strict sodium-free diet along with medication, which helps control the vertigo attacks. My hearing fluctuates; on some days, I have no difficulty hearing, while on others, it is very muffled and distorted. Eventually, I may lose my hearing altogether, but this could be several years from now, depending on the progression of the disorder. If and when that occurs, there may be a cochlear implant, which could help restore hearing.

My hearing is a vital part of my ministry and church work. Although I occasionally struggle to understand people, it has not affected me to the point of preventing me from ministering. People have asked me, "Are you ready to retire?" My answer is "No." Many years ago, I made a decision to stay put until God moves me. This is a principle I live by, so until God clearly shows me it is time to move on, we remain where we are. Living with Meniere's disease isn't easy. However, through all of this, I am learning what Paul learned long ago: "For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Church Update

We continue to have good Sunday attendance, although the same individuals do not always attend. Weekend activities tend to draw people away. If everyone attended at the time, we would exceed well over 50 people. Recently, two new individuals have begun attending services. We knew them when our Mission was open in Pickle Lake. Both are struggling with alcohol addiction but have a desire to stop drinking and follow Jesus. Alcohol addiction is at epidemic proportions in our community, and many members of our church family have struggled with this sin at some point. It is encouraging to see how Jesus has transformed their lives.