

News From Curacao

August 18, 2026

Dear Brethren and Friends:



We are pleased to share the mission's progress over the past months. Everyone is doing their best; some are sick, and others are grieving, but we are trusting in the Lord's will.

This summer was a busy time for us as we planned and executed our children's VBS and still working on the building project. We ran the program from July 13 through the 16th, picking up kids from different age groups in various neighborhoods for Bible lessons. This year we chose the

theme: *"Build it right, build it strong, build it on the Rock"* from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 7:24-27. The idea aligned with our current building project and reminded us to build for lasting results. It also instilled within the young people the need to obey Christ to build a life that would withstand the challenges of time.

We rented a nearby venue for the event, the Kangaroo Center in Kanga. Several new faces attended VBS, introducing us to more families in the area. As usual, our hands were full. Our highest attendance was 42, more than enough to keep us constantly on our toes. The lessons were practical and heart-stirring, easy for the kids to relate to.

Every day, after we took the kids home, I joined the workers at the building, securing whatever they needed and making sure everything was in place. This has led to significant progress in the project. We are at the stage where we have fixed beams, nailed all of the plywood and heading toward the phase of pouring the concrete to set the upper slab for the next floor, an important





milestone.

The challenges have been immense! High material costs play a major role in the process. But we are encouraged by the feedback we receive from people who pass by and see the changes that are taking place. Many share their kind words of support about the project. Although it's far from completion, they are beginning to envision what it will look like in the future.



On behalf of all of us, I express my profound gratitude to the Oxford congregation for their financial assistance at the start of the project. In particular, I say a hearty thank you to the Eldership and Brother Steve Hicks, (Mission Coordinator) for embracing this idea. Recently, someone made a sizable donation toward the project through the Oxford church, and it came at a critical time; funds were running extremely low. This last donation has kept the project moving. Also, I want to thank that individual for his good heart; we appreciate his kind gesture.

Now our major spending centers around buying materials, paying labor, and renting certain tools we can't purchase. A preliminary check shows we need 48.85 cubic meters of concrete to fill all beams and the floor, which will be 15 centimeters thick. The math shows $17 \times 14.40 = 244.8$ (floor area) square meters, multiplied by 0.15, which is the thickness of the slab, equal to 36.72 cubic meters. That excludes the beams, which require 12.13 cubic meters for filling, so $36.72 + 12.13 = 48.85$ cubic meters of concrete. Here is the company's website to see what that looks like in price: [Ready Mix Concrete – BIB Webshop](https://bibwebshop.com/product/ready-mix-concrete-2/). (<https://bibwebshop.com/product/ready-mix-concrete-2/>). Also, we need to add 50 pieces of premade mesh (5 by 2 meters) to the framework, including

reinforcing rebars. The average price for one 10 mm mesh is CG 225 (local currency), approximately \$127 USD. Please check out our local hardware store online for confirmation of these prices ([The largest hardware store in the Caribbean | Everything You Need to Succeed](#)). Then we must run electrical PVC pipes across the floor for lights, fans, wall outlets, etc., before the pouring concrete. So we kindly ask everyone reading this newsletter to consider supporting this project. Whatever you are able to contribute, large or small, will be sincerely appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help.



On August 1, Ulrich, sister Flanders son-in-law was baptized into Christ. I have known that family for many years. I officiated their wedding and have seen their kids grow to adulthood. Until three weeks ago, Ulrich had never attended our services at Rio Canario; his wife, a local teacher, did. However, that changed when he decided to accept Christ into his life. So far, he has adjusted to the church and attends services every Sunday

morning with his wife. He is a curious learner and asks critical and challenging questions. Ulrich is an IT specialist and is well respected in his field. When we got to the baptismal site, brother Alexander, one of the men at Rio Canario, came with me; it was early in the morning. Ulrich was accompanied by his wife, Nadia, Son, Jerry, and cousin for his baptism. Surprisingly, Ulrich and Alexander reconnected because they had known each other in school, attended the same college, sat in the same class, and worked on projects together. For us, it was a big wow, what a small world! But it helped Ulrich transition into the body more easily, knowing there was someone else in the church he knew. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.





Thank you for your moral and financial support in this mission. We cannot do it alone!
Please keep us in your prayers and thoughts, from Alford and Patricia Lazar.

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