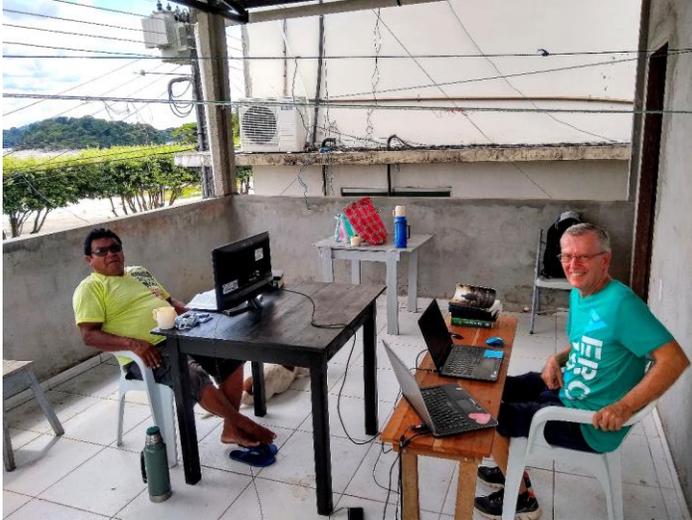


**From:** Lindy Drake <lindy\_drake@ntm.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021, 04:01:01 PM EST  
**Subject:** February Praise and Pray

**Pray:** This past Sunday, in church, we read 2 Kings 2:19-22. (You will have to read this to understand what Herman said) Since the New Year, in our church services, we have been emphasizing that God has placed the Holy Spirit in us and when we walk with him, Jesus lives his good life in and through us. This pleases God. After listening to the teaching from this passage, **Herman** spoke up and said: *"We have studied God's Word together for many years, and even though we hear it, we're like a garden that God has planted that doesn't bear God's good fruit. Instead we loudly criticize each other for our bad behavior and produce nothing that our kids see and want to imitate. There is little happiness and little pleasure. There's just no way to be happy with all this bad stuff. Jesus is like the salt in this story. Salt is the first thing we add to our food to give it flavor. If there's no salt, there's no flavor, and we don't like it. We start criticizing each other: 'No I won't eat this. It has no flavor.' When there's salt we enjoy our food and we are happy. 'This is delicious! So good!' That's how God wants to look at our lives. With Christ, he has something good to look at and that makes him happy. With Christ, we become ones who give Him pleasure. Jesus lives in me! He lives His life in and through me! God tells us, 'Don't try to live my life by your own self effort. You won't be able to please me that way.' I may think, 'The Holy Spirit lives far away from me. He isn't with me.' But God put him inside of me, to help me know His ways. I need to obey Him. I was a heavy drinker. We all were. When we drank, we would get angry, and then other problems took over. We disobeyed God and never thought: 'Jesus lives his life in me. He is always with me wherever I go.'" We live by our own self effort. We say whatever we want with our friends, make fun of others. When we're in church, gathered with other believers we believe the Holy Spirit is nearby. But when we're with our friends outside of church, where is the Holy Spirit? 'He is my life. He connects me to God's life, like the sap from the tree flows into its branches and gives them life.' We just don't think like that."* **Praise: Herman's spiritual understanding is growing, and so are his leadership abilities. Pray: that the Guanano believers would respond to Herman's challenge and begin to think like that. May they become God's fruitful garden, a group of people who bring God great pleasure.**



**Pray:** Herman and I work together while Barry and Jhoni work together on these Bible lessons 4 days a week getting them ready to teach in church. Herman and I have been careful, we mask up coming to work and returning home. While working, we sit out in an open, well ventilated place with plenty of space between us. But yesterday Herman tested positive for COVID. While he takes a prescribed course of medicine over the next 10 days, Carol and I have gone into quarantine. We are fine, just taking the prescribed measures not to pass it on to others. **Pray: that in 10 days Herman and I can work together again.**

We thank you once again for your prayers on our behalf and on behalf of the Guanano church.

Your coworkers,

Lindy and Carol Drake

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