



March eNewsletter



HOW MANY LIVES WILL BE AFFECTED?

1-4 Changed My Life Forever

Missionary Rawlica Sumner describes her life-transforming experiences in Guyana with B4P

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“Changed My Life Forever”

“...there aren’t enough words in the English dictionary to describe the experiences I had”

By Rawlica Sumner (italicized portions by Annette Eckart)

What an exciting time to be alive! For many people who knew that I was going on a mission trip to Guyana, it didn’t make sense given the growing global threat of Coronavirus at the time. However, Proverbs 19:21 (MSG) says, “We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God’s purpose prevails.” And that’s exactly what happened.

I’ve always wanted to go on a mission trip to help others in need, but the timing was never right. Missions

were either too expensive or wouldn’t work with my schedule, but ultimately I never heard God telling me to go. I settled for being a missionary right here in New York City which has been a wonderful experience. Then, **when I least expected it, God told me to go. The timing was bizarre.** I never imagined that I’d end up in my hometown in Linden, Guyana bringing peace and healing through Holy Spirit power. When the offer was made, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to go for it.

I had no idea how much it would cost, I didn’t have money for it re-

gardless of cost. I didn’t know what assignments would be due that week since University hadn’t begun yet. I had zero expectations in terms of what to expect while there, but **I knew if God really wanted me to go then He would make a way.** I watched everything align from costs covered to Coronavirus causing my University to go on temporary break. All I have to say is that **I better never doubt God again.**

I believe everyone on our team was handpicked by God. There were

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Ed, Annette, Ed, Florence, Rawlica, Candace, Shaina, Scott



Bridge for Peace: Combining medical and prayer missions

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eight of us, a perfect number for selecting crocodiles (*two by two partners B4P style*) and we all fit into two cars or one minibus. **One of the biggest takeaways from being on such a unique team was that I got to witness what it was like to have no team member greater than another.** I've said it and read the verse that speaks to that many times, but experiencing it was something different, especially as a student who thought I would mostly observe as a volunteer. (*Romans 12:3-6 ...I say to every one of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought...we are parts one of another mutually dependent...we have gifts that differ... use them accordingly...*)

I definitely observed, but I was right there with the team praying for people, lecturing in the hospital, and ministering in four schools one day with "Farmer" Ed, and Annette and Ed.

I have never prayed so much in the span of one week in my entire life. Going on B4P mission is NOT easy. I knew it wasn't going to

be a vacation, but I was not expecting to do everything we did. Less than 6 hours of sleep almost every night, long devotions with the team, breaking bread together in prayer, anointing time, sharing my testimony, praying for healing with those hospitalized, in churches, and on the street—it was just amazing and it was all through the power of God. **I had to rely on the Holy Spirit more than I ever have in my entire lifetime** to speak through me, guide my actions, and understand what I was supposed to pray for.

For example, the day after we arrived when we went to church, the Holy Spirit told me I would be praying for someone's hands. I saw a vision of a woman's hands in a bowl. The second person Dr. Scott and I prayed for had pain in her wrist and hands. She said she was a baker and often had her hands in a bowl! **After prayer, she was completely free of pain. How incredible!** To see people healed and know it was nothing I did or said, but faith in action was wonderful. I feel there aren't enough words in the English dictionary to describe the experiences I had.

Spending time in Linden Hospital

with Drs. Florence and Candace, and Shaina (who has a degree in Community Health and is headed for medical school) broke my heart for Guyanese people. As I told a few others, "I never truly cared so much about Guyanese people until now." As expected, the hospital didn't have as many resources as we do in America. There were a lot of uncertainties while we were there since the new president still had not been chosen after national elections and hospital positions are government appointed. The hospital is on a slim budget. (*Guyana is one of South America's poorest countries with an average per capita income of \$4,000 US.*) There is a need for access to academic resources. **(B4P RaphaEl medical team presented staff with some crucial supplies during this mission. They also plan to fundraise for a computer lab for medical staff/ students and hope to supply online training.)** This mission caused me to desire to return to Linden and serve as often as possible in the hospital and in the community. Here is where God answered another prayer. As I get ready to enter

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"Romans 16:19 says, 'Be excellent at what is good, be innocent of evil.'"



'Farmer' Ed ministers healing

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medical school, I've been thinking about my specialty. After listening to our doctors on the mission, I am considering Emergency/Internal Medicine residency where I would get exposure to multiple disciplines.

Ministering one day at the schools was also a great experience. (*The B4P team taught the Word of God and spiritual strategies for all ages in 16 schools, reaching over 5,500 students and over one hundred teachers in four days.*) **I was shocked to learn Guyana is number one worldwide in suicide.** I was even more surprised to find out from the local pastors that **recently school children were committing suicide and hearing evil voices from the devil to kill themselves and harm themselves.** (*Children came forward for prayer, even when I did not invite them. Little ones told me they were having nightmares of death, hearing suggestions of their death when they were alone during normal activities, and seeing frightening threatening images in their minds. Even seven year olds articulated their experience and sought prayer from the B4P team. The principal at*

one school took the microphone and said, "B4P has brought us a timely message. Even this week I had three students in my office who spoke to me about suicidal thoughts." Students were shocked when I told them about Guyana's standing in the world re: suicide. However, Jesus equipped them through our message to change that pattern. The B4P missionary team commissioned thousands of missionaries from among the students who said they would go and tell someone the truth in the Name of Jesus Christ.) My eyes were opened to the fact that there is so much more evil going on in the world than I originally thought. It was so great to see Annette speak to the children about suicide. She left an impact.

After she spoke, mentioning demons as bullies, I had some students come up to me and ask for prayer about someone bullying them. (*Rawlica, Shaina, and Candace formed a circle of prayer with six young girls and a boy in the school hallway to pray about this situation of bullying. I asked Pastor Sills to follow up. The school principal had also requested the B4P team come to his office and pray for him. At that*

time, Pastor Sills reported the problem. The principal jerked his head back and, knotting his eyebrows together, he said, "He is only this big," indicating with his hand a very short boy. The principal said, "I'll take care of it." As we left his office and walked down the stairs, Pastor saw a small student climbing up, his mother behind him. Pastor recognized the mother and realized this was the purported bully! He spoke immediately to him, right there mid-staircase. The student felt others picked on him. The Pastor will be mediating and by the power of Jesus Christ bring resolution, directly changing seven young lives.)

The open air service was AWE-SOME. I gave my testimony and got an opportunity to pray for people who resonated with it. **I even got to pray for a mom and her daughter who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.** (*That night, as Corona virus became more of a concern, authorities banned public gatherings. However, authorities believed we offered something important for people. They permitted the gathering and provided police protection as well! Scott introduced*

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B4P and spoke his heart to the people. I followed Scott, introduced the message of hope the team would bring and shared a bit of my story. Before the B4P team came to give their moving testimonies, this lady came forward and I was pulled off to the side into the dark by a church volunteer who said, "She wants prayer." Her breath reeked of alcohol.

"I don't want this alcohol anymore!" she said. Absolutely sincere, she wanted Jesus. I listened to Ed testify, as I would return to the podium after to emphasize a phrase or two to help solidify in people's minds the truth he taught. At the same time, I wanted to give my full attention to this lady. "Let's pray," I said to her. "Father, we come to you in the Name of Jesus..." Quickly, I led her through. "Do you repent of the abuse of alcohol?" "Yes! I don't want to drink anymore!" We prayed, she called Jesus her Savior and asked Him to baptize her in the Holy Spirit. We said, "Amen." She moved into the deeper darkness and I was totally dissatisfied. She needed deliverance prayer. She was not done. I called a pastor and pointed, "That lady needs prayer."

He approached her and wrote down her phone number. I knew by tomorrow she could change her mind. I kept an eye on her when I went to the podium and the Holy Spirit showed me what to do. After Rawlica's testimony, I called her and Scott to pray with the lady. They spent the necessary time, the lady felt the change and asked if they would pray with her 16 year old daughter who stood nearby. The young woman was willing, and expressed her sense of meeting the power of God as they prayed for her! Scott asked, "Where do you live in the US?" She lived in a Pennsylvania town next to Scott's sister, who loves to mentor young women in Christ! Scott immediately sent the teen's number to his sister who was in contact with the young woman the next day!

I have learned to slow down in my quiet time with God. It's not about saying prayers, then reading the Word, and closing in prayer. Even one week later, as I have had time to rest and digest everything that occurred, I'm still unfolding, discovering, and understanding how God moved, spoke, and the ways God continues to speak to me. One week has changed my life forever.



May

2 B4P Annual Yard Sale 8 to 4
On the Great Lawn, Wading River
9 Women's Retreat Day Church of the Intercessor, Malverne

June

14 Brunch/Auction 12:00 at the Wheatley Hills Golf Club, East Williston

Facebook Pages

Bridge for Peace
Bridge for Peace: Uganda Children's Villages
Bridge for Peace, RaphaEl Medical Missions



Event Details

www.bridgeforpeace.org/

TV Times

All **Nassau and Suffolk Counties:**
Sunday 3 a.m. Channel 20
Monday 7 a.m. Channel 115
Tuesday 12 a.m. Channel 20

Manhattan MNN 3p.m:
Alternating Mondays starting Mar.30

Contact Us: 631-730-3982
Email: info@bridgeforpeace.org
Mail: Bridge for Peace, PO Box 789, Wading River, NY 11792

During these challenging days:

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