



The Shields

Family

Church Planters in Aruba

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is our prayer that each of you are well and content to serve the Lord in your Jerusalem and home church family. Hardly a week goes by that we do not hear from someone in one of our supporting churches and every time we do it is a sweet reminder of the amazing family that the Lord has given us!

In our last letter we asked you to pray for some of our activities that we were about to have, here is how it went;

- Youth Camp – we had 22 young people plus some adults and children for the week of camp and we had a blast! It was our first teen camp, and although it was just our youth, we had a lot of fellowship and some decisions in the area of growth and obedience to the Lord.
- VBS – we had a smaller crowd this year (about 70 kids), but the spirit was great and it was a blessing to see so many of our church people involved in different aspects of the VBS.
- Radio – we started back in to the daily radio program in July and have been pleased to see that the outreach through the program has not diminished even though the program was cancelled while we gone this last Spring. Please continue to pray as we preach and teach to so many in places that we will never be able to go in person.
- English Classes – praise the Lord we were finally able to start up English classes! Three dear ladies from New York (Bethel Baptist Fellowship) came down and helped us with setting this up. It is now officially organized and functioning every Tuesday night and there has been definite interest with many on the Island. Please pray for this new weekly outreach!
- Visitors – we were blessed to have some of the Deatrick family with us, Pastor David Maaza from NH, the three ladies from NY, and the Hershberger family from AR who will be with us until November.

At this moment Naomi and I are in the USA. We have 11 churches to visit, that either we were not able to schedule in our Spring-Summer trip, or they had invited us to preach a conference. As write this we are in the middle of a Missions Conference with Pastor Frank Camp and Victory Baptist in Darlington, SC. We have already been in LA, MS, FL, and GA. On Monday we head to MO and Iowa and from there we plan on “swinging” back down to FL to switch out cars with Caleb, and after dropping off the van in Miami for shipping to Aruba, we should fly home on the 4th of Oct. As we travel Bro. Jeremiah is preaching for me at church and at home Tirsia and Selah are watching the younger ones for us. Naomi and I are enjoying alone-time!

September, 2022

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Probably our biggest news for this update is that of advancement on the land / building in San Nicolas. If you remember the church building that is on the South end of Aruba that has been in the process of being donated to us for some time now, it has now officially been given to us! The old committee came together on the 2nd of Sep. and officially resigned their position and voted me in as President of the Foundation with two of our church ladies as Secretary and Treasurer. While I am on this trip the documents are being drawn up, legally signed and presented to the Chamber of Commerce. Once I arrive the first week of October, we will start work on the building itself as we remodel and prepare it for its new name and ministry. To say the least we are excited and really looking forward to what the Lord will do... He has already done so much just in getting us this far, so it will be interesting to see what He has planned! As to this new step in our ministry and outreach, here are some prayer request and thoughts:

- **Please pray for balance and strength for us as leaders.** We already have too much on our plate between the 2 churches, radio ministry, illegal holding facility ministry, and other outreach ministries, not to mention family.
- **Please pray for contacts.** Every time I am over in San Nicolas for any reason at all the Lord opens up the door to speak to someone there. We are really looking forward to the day that we can start services and say that once again there is a Bible preaching church on the South side of Aruba! Pray for lives to be touched and saved!
- **Please pray for finances.** Not only is there simple more overhead expense as we branch out, there will be some very heavy expenses related with getting this old building ready and getting it to where we would like to see it go. There has already been one love gift given for the remodeling of the building and the promise to help replace the air-conditioners for the sanctuary. It is really hard to put a dollar amount to the project until we actually get in to the building this next month and start checking the roof and basic structure. I do know that we need to replace all the doors, most of the overhang on the front of the building, all the plumbing, all the electric in Sunday School rooms, false ceilings in the Sunday School rooms, completely remodel the two bathrooms, and then we have to make some kind of sign. We have already paid for the water contract to be opened again, and we are almost there with the electric contract. There are two small teams coming in from PA and MO in Oct and Nov and their desire is to help us get some of this done. One of our first steps is to turn one of the Sunday School rooms in to an apartment so that visitors can have a place to stay while they visit us.
 - *One of the largest expenses that we are looking at right now is that we promised to “try” to give the ex-pastor of the closed church some money for signing everything over to us. He was wanting \$17,000, however we told him that “if” the Lord provided something for that purpose that we would pass it on to him. I have prayed much about this, and although I really don’t want to see money thrown away, it does seem necessary to give him something so that he will walk away in the clear.*
- **Please pray with us about the pastoral house.** Two houses down from the property we have been given is another piece of property that was originally bought with the idea of building a pastoral house. Nothing was ever done with it but now it is going to be ours also. It is small, covered in shrubs and trash, and not fenced in, but it is exciting to think about building a place for my family where we will no longer have to “waste” money on rent. The house project will obviously not be a priority now as we have to get the church building ready first, but we would love to start working on cleaning it and prepping it as soon as we logically can. Of course, building a house is a lot of time, money, and work, but it is investment in to something that will stay with the ministry for years to come.
- **Please pray for the shipping of our van.** Our 1996 Ford van has been very useful this year for our reporting trip and then for Caleb over the last few months, but now we are wanting to take it to Aruba with us. It is old, but we have replaced many parts and I think it can still last a long while taking people to church in Aruba. To get it shipped to Aruba it will cost around \$5,000. With everything else that we have going on it almost seems foolish to make this expense at this time, but the truth is that we need a good church van in Aruba and over there they are extremely expensive to purchase. Right now, I “own” 4 vehicles, but three are in the shop (two have been broken down for 2 years now) and the one that is keeping us afloat is a small 5-person car.

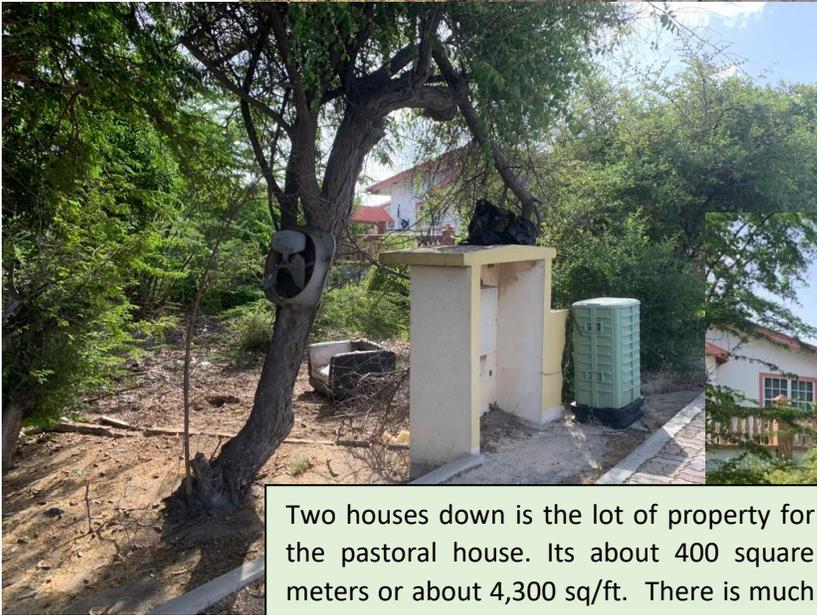
I know that there are many needs and much money represented in these last few paragraphs, but all I can say is that we will go forward with what the Lord provides, when He provides it. As I have said for years as a missionary when asked about our finances, “We are at 100% of what the Lord wants us to have;” we will do our best with what there is and advance as we can. If you feel led to help with any of these projects or needs, please let us know or get in touch with our sending church and pastor at the numbers or address listed in our contact information. And above all, please help us pray! This is the Lord’s people, His Church, and His work, we truly yearn to see Him fulfill His work through us!

Matt Shields and Family

Luke 19:41



Church building in San Nicolas. In the far back you can see the sanctuary, on the left are the two long Sunday School rooms. The property is right on the main road, in front of the main round-about.



Two houses down is the lot of property for the pastoral house. Its about 400 square meters or about 4,300 sq/ft. There is much to do!



Please keep Caleb in your prayers as he has officially started his first semester of college at Pensacola. If anyone wants to reach out to him his address is:
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