

# The Shields Family

## Planting Baptist Churches in Aruba

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Our family is doing well, and growing in about every way. Several of the kids have birthdays in these months and of course we are excited to start a new school year as soon as our school books arrive on the Island. **Our BIG NEWS at this time is to announce that Baby Shields #8 is on its way!!!** We have been blessed from the Lord with another pregnancy and are expecting our next child around the end of March, 2019. Please keep Naomi in your prayers as the morning sickness has been hitting quite hard... we hope that it will go away pretty soon. And while it lasts, please pray for Matt and the older children as they try to keep things going normally without Mom's constant help.

Thanks for praying!  
Matt, Naomi, and Kids

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June - July, 2018

It is hard to believe that summer is practically gone and with it all the regular activities! As for many ministries, summer is one of our busiest times of the year for our ministry. One aspect that makes our summers here even crazier is that the summer break for the kids is sooo short! The schools let out around the first couple weeks of July and they start back up around the 15<sup>th</sup> of August... it is hard to squeeze everything into those 4 or 5 weeks. And on top of that we had about a quarter of our families out of the Island for some kind of summer vacation. But, with the Lord's help and that of many of our people in Berea we were able to have a successful youth camp, junior camp, and VBS.

**Youth Camp** – we had right at 20 youth (13-18 year-olds) for this camp with a few of them being new contacts. We studied the story of Gideon and the 300 valiant men that the Lord used to liberate Israel from the Midianites.

**Junior Camp** – we had around 28 juniors (7-12 year-olds) for this activity with some new contacts also. We talked and taught of Salvation several times and thankfully 3 children accepted Christ! All three are regular church kids whom we have worked with for a while now; please pray for Leo, Sofia, and Gabriela as they grow in the Lord.

**VBS** – Our VBS this year was based around the theme of the Armor of God. Our skits, crafts, songs, and lessons were all focused on Eph. 6:10-17. The average attendance was 85 for the week with over 60 of those being children. We had many visitors over the week and several adults who are brand new to the Gospel came around all week! Please pray specifically for Mrs. Janet and her family, from Venezuela; she has been to almost every activity for three weeks now and is coming out of a Catholic background. We also have started a new bus route to a new neighborhood and have several solid leads for the area who have mentioned wanting to become faithful to church. Lastly please pray for Josue, Dayanis, Lizeth, and Daisy (all 9-10 years old) who have all mentioned wanted to receive Christ in these last few weeks – may the Lord give us wisdom as we work with them.

Our **English services** have continued on well. Thursday night it is usually a small crowd of pure regular folks but Sunday 8:30 am service has been very well attended. There are several new families coming and visiting and one of them in particular has mentioned becoming a part of the church. Please pray with us as we continue to try to reach new people with the Gospel. There is hardly a week without visitors at church and our street evangelism time is also always giving solid leads to work with.

One of the highlights this past summer was having Jordan Bickel and Josh and Tim Jackey from Bethel Baptist Fellowship in New York City with us for three weeks. The guys were a blessing to us and helped out with many different projects during their trip. We hope that we were able to be a blessing and challenge to them in return.

We want to welcome New Beginnings Baptist Church and Pastor Eric Catha in South Louisiana to our supporting church family! It is always amazing to see how the Lord brings in new contacts and support when it is needed! We just this month received word that one of our supporting individuals is retiring and will have to withdraw their support from our ministry, and although their generous support will be greatly missed we know that the Lord will give us all we need, when we need it. Our church here in Aruba has been able to pay the rent and taxes each month so far but we as a family are having to cover the rest of the expenses such as water, electric, gas, and activities since January 2018. Please help us pray for peace, patience, and His provision as we wait and work towards the Lord's answer in this area of our ministry and church life.

As always, thank you so much for your faithfulness to the Lord there in the US and also for your faithful prayers and support to us on the field. Your prayers are greatly needed and coveted by us as we continue to serve the Lord the rest of this 2018. We have a special "student day" coming up in a few weeks, and over the next few months an evangelism conference, a unique service honoring the older generation in our congregation, a mission's conference, another year of Bible Institute classes, and of course all the regular services and activities throughout each month. Also, Matt has invitations to preach in Venezuela, Colombia, USA, and Mexico in the near future and we are trying to figure out the right balance and schedule. Our desire is to see the lost saved, the young and confused believers confirmed in the Scriptures, our church plant grow in deed, knowledge, and love, and above all, the Lord glorified! Thank you for being a part of this ministry, we pray for each of you often and are blessed to be a part of your outreach and ministry to a lost world!

Your Ambassadors by His Grace,

The Shields

Phil. 1:6