



Guyana 2001

Optometry Missions Trip

Packing for the Trip to Guyana

- Shannon and Teresa packing the boxes for our equipment and the glasses.



Reviewing the Computer Database



- Joe, Maribeth and Mitch prepare for the process of familiarizing the team with the computer database.
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Guyana, the Country



- Located between Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname.
- Population of 756,000.
- English is official language.
- Religions include Christianity (46%), Hindu (37%) and Muslim (9%).

Climate and Landscape



- Guyana's year-round tropical climate creates lush vegetation like these sugar cane fields.
- Rain showers can be a part of daily life for the Guyanese.

Georgetown



- Here is a look at the bustling streets as well as the famous St. George's Cathedral in the background.

Guyana Eye Team



- Leaving for the Nigg Clinic from Georgetown.

Ferry across the Berbice River at New Amsterdam



- After spending the night in Georgetown we head south for New Amsterdam where we board the ferry to cross the Berbice River.

Our Host's Home – the McAllisters



- We stayed in the bunkhouse behind the main house during the mission.

The McAllisters



- Todd, Kris and their children have lived in Guyana for nearly a decade.

Our Dining Room



- Team meals were served in the dining area behind the main house.
- This was also the area where we had all of our organizational meetings

View from the Bunkhouse



- The guard dog cages are located just behind the bunkhouse.
- The dogs are released each night for protection.

Site of the Eye Clinic



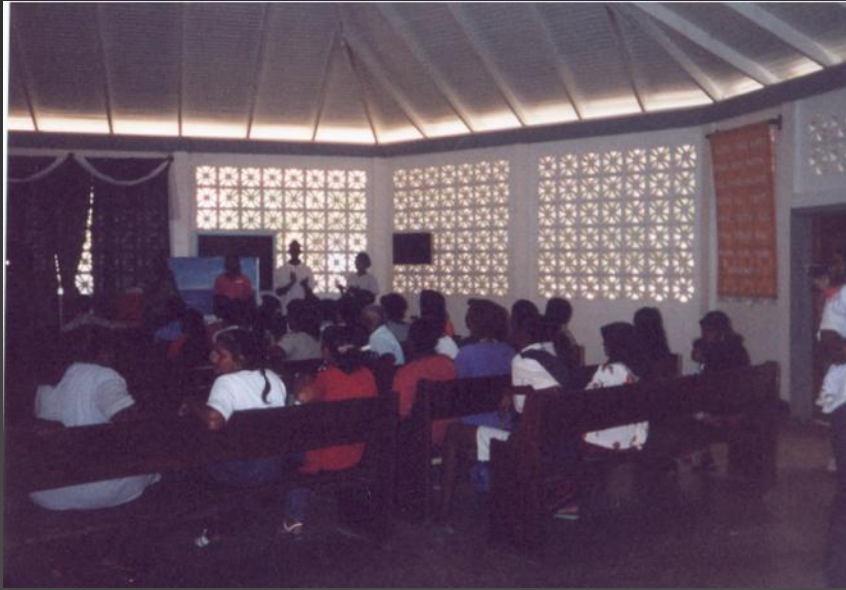
- We used the Nigg Bible Church as our clinic site.

Many Came



- A total of 1600 people were served during this mission
- Each morning patients who had been given a ticket lined up well before dawn.

Patient Flow Began in the Sanctuary



- Fifty patients were admitted at one time into the clinic.
- Patients were given the opportunity to hear the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ while they waited.

Visual Acuties: Station 1



- Patients left the sanctuary in small groups to enter the clinic's patient flow scheme.
- Nancy coordinated their first stop at the visual acuties station.

Personal History: Station 2



- Greg and his assistants recorded all of the patient's pertinent medical history.

Lensometer Readings at Station 2



- Greg also recorded the patient's present prescription if they were wearing one.

Greg Resting



- Greg ruptured his Achilles tendon on the first day at Georgetown so he often tried to keep his foot up when he had a chance to take a break.
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Autorefraktion: Station 3



- Joe and Shannon utilized state-of-the-art autorefractors to help the doctors narrow in on the patient's prescription.

The Doctor's Examination: Station 4



- At any one time there were at least 3 doctors examining patients.

Patients Waiting to see a Doctor



- The lines often seemed endless but at the doctor's station there were never more than 20 patients waiting at any one time.
- This room was never empty, until the end of the day.

Dr. Charles at Station 4



Dr. Brian at Station 4



Detailed Examinations: Station 5



- Full dilated examinations were provided for patients with serious health problems such as diabetes, glaucoma and high blood pressure.

Dr. Maribeth at Station 5



Teresa taking Blood Pressure at Station 5



Dispensing Storeroom – before the daily rush.



Dispensing in full Swing



- The inventory of glasses were kept in the storeroom.
- Patients were assisted in the dispensing area across from the storeroom.

Many Helped to Dispense the Right Glasses



- Guyanese Christian volunteers
- American Missionaries and their children
- Optometry Team

Dispensing Supervisors



- Mitch updates the computer inventory and Gina the hard copy inventory.
- Mary Jean coordinates individual dispenser patient requirements with Gina and Mitch.

What do We Have?



- Your inventory lists made it easy to find the right glasses for:
 - Men
 - Woman
 - Children
 - Young People
 - Older people

Patients Waiting at the Dispensing Station.



- The heart of the clinic was the team of 5 to 7 dispensers who helped each patient on a individual basis.

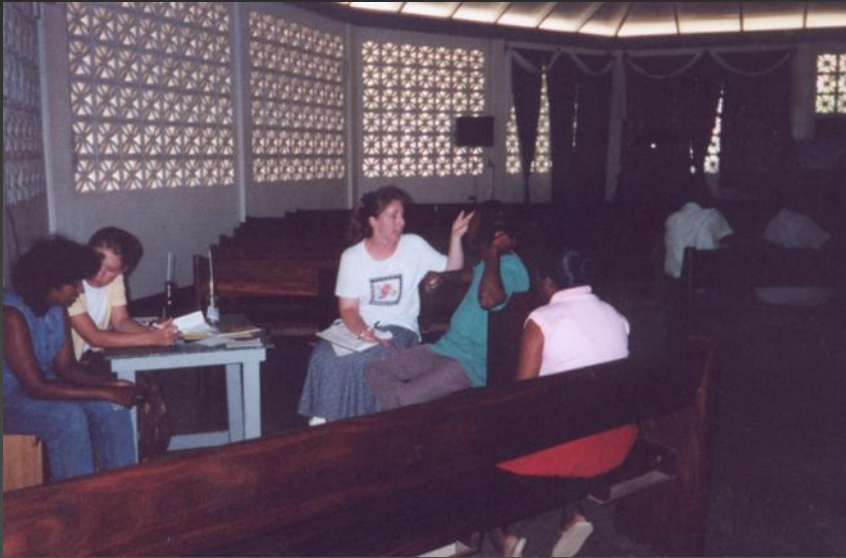
Laura Helping a Patient at Dispensing.



Checking the Patient's Distance Visual Acuity with New Glasses



Personal Counseling for all Patients



- Personal counselors were available for all patients.
- Feedback was requested from each patient on how they felt they had been treated by clinic personnel.

Some of our Patients

- Gina with a young Guyanese patient



Some of our Patients



- Laura with a young Guyanese patient.

Some of our Patients

- Gina with a local Hindu priest



Some of our Patients

- Teresa with a young Guyanese woman waiting for a doctor.



Some of our Patients

- Dr. Charles with a patient.



Local Guyanese Minister Thanking Mitch for his work.



Lifelong Friendships Formed

