

Missionaries serving through GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

**NOVEMBER 2023** 

# Greetings friends,

## We Praise the Lord for what He is doing on the island of Aruba!

In October we took a survey and evangelistic trip to the island of Aruba. Aruba is a nearby island off the coast of Venezuela and along with Bonaire and Curacao is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. These three neighboring islands are known as the "ABC" islands and they speak the Papiamentu language. There is also a large Papiamentu-speaking population in the Netherlands. Our team in Aruba consisted of Pastor Michael and Sandra Look from the Bible church in Curacao and the two of us, Carlos and Denise, who traveled from Bonaire.



The primary focus during our stay in Aruba was holding an evangelistic event. Leading up to the event we spent our days reconnecting with the contacts we made during our previous trip in August 2022 and inviting them to our family evangelistic event. We also shared flyers and posters in various communities and we had the opportunity to do two media interviews. One of the interviews was with a radio station and the other with the most popular television station on the island inviting the people of Aruba to our evangelistic event. During the interviews, Carlos and Michael had an opportunity to share the message of God's grace. Carlos also had the opportunity to share his testimony of his conversion to Christ and how God healed him from prostate cancer. During the evening we visited our old friends and new contacts.



# We thank the Lord for the people who made a decision to accept Christ!

During lunch at a restaurant, we shared Christ with a young lady who worked there and told her about the new life He offers to all people. Afterward, she invited us to her home to hear more about Christ. She said she is at a point in her life where she really needs a change. On Thursday morning the team went to visit her home and she accepted the Lord! This new convert said she experienced relief after receiving Christ in her life. She had experienced a lot of struggles as a child and as a young adult. The young lady became so excited after receiving Christ that she wanted to help us invite people to our evangelistic event.

She joined our team as we invited people in the city of San Nicolas and she invited several of her contacts in this city where she lived as a child. She connected us with a radio station to share about our event and introduced us to her friends at the Red Cross and the YMCA. At the YMCA we shared many flyers with the kids and leaders. When she went home in the afternoon, she continued sharing the flyers of our evangelistic event with her neighbors.

This past summer while Carlos was preaching the gospel in a grace church in the Netherlands a woman prayed to receive Christ. We learned that this woman is from Aruba and was in the Netherlands to visit her children and grandchildren. While we were in Aruba we were able to visit her at her home and meet her family. Carlos shared the gospel during this visit and four adults and four children responded to the invitation to receive Christ.

Carlos encouraged them to join an online discipleship class to be taught by Carlos and Denise when they are back in Bonaire and they all indicated a desire to be part of this Bible study.

While Carlos was sharing Christ with this family Pastor Look and his wife Sandra were sharing our mid-Acts dispensational understanding of the Scriptures with an old friend of Pastor Look. This man is a believer and is searching for another church in which to serve together with his wife. Pastor Look also visited a gentleman whom he previously led to the Lord on the island of Curacao who is currently living in Aruba. While he is not currently active in a church, he is very interested in visiting the GMI-affiliated church we hope to plant in Aruba. He also helped us share flyers inviting his neighbors and others to our evangelistic event.

The Lord used Denise to encourage a lady who Pastor Michael and Sandra led to the Lord during their visit in August 2022. The lady asked Denise to help her in her walk with Christ and Denise shared with her from the Bible. The lady started to take part in our weekly prayer group in Bonaire and also wants to be part of our weekly Bible study.

Carlos's brother who lives in Aruba is also interested in being part of the church we plant in Aruba. He shared many flyers with his friends and neighbors in the city of San Nicolas where he lives and attended our evangelistic event with a friend. While some of the people we led to Christ during the week could not attend our event due to work schedules, the Lord brought both old and new friends to hear the gospel. At the event, Carlos shared the gospel and testimony of healing from prostate cancer and four more adults prayed to receive Christ, including his brother and brother's friend. Three of the people attending want to participate in a Bible study, five want to know more about our church, and two requested a visit to their home by a pastor.

Denise was responsible for the worship during the event and shared her testimony of how God helped her and Carlos during the time they were in Colombia for Carlos' cancer treatment. Sandra shared a Bible story and handcrafts with the kids, and played games with them with the assistance of Denise. Pastor Michael was responsible for the sound system and the games for the adults. One of the kids came with her mom and during the altar call she raised her hand to accept Christ! She indicated to us that she would like to be part of our Bible study.

We have another mission trip planned for Aruba next year and hope to stay two weeks so we have more time to connect with the people we met on our previous trips and build them up in their faith.

### During the coming months, we ask you to pray for:

- · Those who placed their faith in Christ in Aruba and for their spiritual growth.
- The upcoming online discipleship class via Zoom from Bonaire. Please pray that the new converts might continue to be zealous for the Word.
- $\cdot$  The mother we met who is suffering from pains in her shoulder and leg.
- $\cdot$  The Christian leader and his wife who want to know more about our doctrine.
- The Brunks and Looks as they add the Aruba discipleship ministries with their current church ministries in Bonaire and Curacao.
- God to provide the finances for our next follow-up Aruba Mission Trip in February 2024.

We thank the Lord for what He is doing in Aruba, and for your prayers and financial support that help us fulfill our desire to plant a church in Aruba.





▲ Sister Denise leading worship



▲ Sister Sandra & the kids
▼ Games with the kids





Scan to stay in touch

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