

Bernard Sylvien

Missionary to Curacao

Reaching, Preaching, and Teaching Curacao Souls for Christ

Mission Board: Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples * P. O. Box 37043 * Jacksonville, FL 32236-7043

Ph: 904-783-4007 * Fax: 904-783-0402

Sending Church: Trinity Baptist Church * 800 Hammond Blvd. * Jacksonville, FL 32221 * Ph: 904-596-2400

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Dear Fellow Believers in Christ,

In Proverbs 16:9 we read *"A man's heart deviseth his way but the Lord directeth his steps."* This particular passage of scripture was one of which I had recently been meditating on for several days about God's providence. It is this passage of scripture that has brought to light the unusual way he has chosen to work in the circumstances I had been in for some time. Just two week ago I had been able to use this same verse to help someone who was in need of some encouragement.

An example of the circumstances came just a few weeks ago with some individuals that I had already shared the gospel with a few years ago but had not received any indication that any thing had happened. Instead of believing, they remained in unbelief and continued to live their lives as they did before. Their big concern at that time and still to some extent now was their religion is correct and there was no need to change anything. Now they have called me asking for me to teach them some lessons I had given them before. They said that they have forgotten a lot of things but do remember something and for this reason would like to start all over again. Not only would they like to start again but wanted to get my permission to ask some coworkers and friends to attend because it would be good for them likewise.

This group consists of Mr. Sluise himself and two others that I had met before. I have accepted to do this as this is another opportunity to present the gospel again. This came right after the one couple that would come every week left due to an apparent problem that arose between them and someone else in their neighborhood. Although the issue could have been easily resolved by the authorities, the husband decided that he wanted to do it a different way. The way he wanted to resolve this was the way he has always known and that is the "street way". This however had created a big disturbance one Sunday morning both during and after the service with some serious exchange of words. This was also going to go on the following Sunday likewise but they decided not to come after I had warned that if he does not deal with the issue, do not return as to disturb the Sunday morning service as had previously been done. It has turned out that this was the correct way as it opened a greater opportunity for others to come. The other individual who has never attended called me and apologized for the disturbance that was created that day. He realizes that I am doing something spiritual but when he saw the man's car in the parking lot, that only got him extremely charged.

Problems come in many different ways and show up unexpectedly but the Lord is able to give wisdom in these unusual situations. In light of this, I would like to request prayer for this couple and in particular the husband (Frensel) that they would understand that they are in a spiritual battle and not physical. Also for Mr. Sluise himself and the others who are under his authority that they might come to see the light of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They as with many that give an opportunity to hear the gospel is often confused between religions as they would confirm. A very high percentage of those I come to know (probably 90% or more) have all sorts of doctrines that they have heard and some even have been involved in cult worship and indoctrination as some have confirmed to me. This only makes things more difficult but not impossible as God's Word is able to destroy all the wrong thinking that people might have. The truth is what they need and it is this that they will continue to receive.

In His Service,

Bernard Sylvien

"....the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2