

**Good Night! (Said as a greeting here, if it is nighttime.)**

**Your time probably changed last night, but ours did not. We are in the Atlantic time zone, so we are now an hour before (later) than the Eastern time zone. Since our church service is at 8:00 a.m., that would be 7 a.m. EST.**

**There have been some changes made since our last report. We just finished our first week back at school for this school year. We only had 1/2 of the students there each day, as we have to have 6 foot distancing among the other protocols (masks required & frequent hand washing). We were given permission to reopen by the Ministry of Education on a 2-week trial basis (along with most of the schools in Grenada, although each non-government school had to apply for permission separately, and be given specific permission to reopen). This means that in another week we will be told whether we can continue to the end of the term (Dec. 10th), or if the students have to go back to staying home. Some of the parents were not ready to send their children back to school, mostly because they did not want to put their child on public transport (we do not have a school bus system) to go to and from school. Others are simply waiting to see if we are going to be able to continue after this week. Our first wave of covid outbreak in Aug. & Sept. was so bad, that many parents are just being very cautious.**

**We still have active cases, and a few new cases being reported most days, and a few covid deaths being reported, but it is way down from what it was a couple of months ago. (We had about 200 covid deaths over a 2-month period.)**

**One of the deaths was a member of our church in Grand Anse. She was a grandmother. She had spent a month in the hospital, much of that time on a ventilator, but she was not able to recover. (She died this past week.)**

**Churches have been given permission to have in-person services, but must be able to practice 6 foot distancing within the church, and masks are required to be worn at all times during the service. Funerals and weddings are now allowed to be held inside again, but the same rules apply as for church services. (Funerals were required to be held outside, graveside, for several weeks. Also, people were allowed to get married during that time, just not to have a wedding ceremony with guests, etc.)**

**So our church has about 20 people at the church for the service, but others stay at home and watch on the YouTube live stream, or the Zoom platform. (Also, there is a time limit for a service. Everyone is to be out of the building by 90 minutes after the service starts. Churches here have had to adjust, as 2-hour services have been the norm.)**

**This has been a very stressful and energy absorbing time. I (Reuben) have to have regular communication with the Ministry of Education, teachers, and parents. I also have to be monitoring teachers and students in regards to covid**

protocol compliance. We have been told to expect a visit from the Ministry of Education any day to inspect us and satisfy themselves that we are operating in full compliance and may continue to have in-person learning. At the same time, I have three teachers out on sick leave at the very time we needed them to be back in school. (That is 1/3 of our staff.) A couple actually went on sick leave the very day that they were to be back in school, only informing me the night before. So we have had to constantly adjust, plan, strategize, accommodate, etc., as we try to navigate our way through all this.

As far as other areas, the nightly curfew was moved from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a couple of weeks, and now this past week was moved to midnight (until 4:00 a.m.). This means that restaurants can have in-person dining in the evening, but only if proof of vaccination is provided. The beach is now open all day again, (it was just in the morning until 10:00, for a while). Businesses are all pretty much open, but masks are still required in any store or public building, as well as on busses, and every business is required to have a log book to record the name, address, and phone # of every person who enters. Also, hands must be sanitized upon entering any store or building. Businesses must have floor markings to mark the 6 foot distancing that patrons must observe when waiting to cash out.

And, if you are not a Grenadian, you are still required to show proof of vaccination, and a negative test within 72 hours of flying, in order to board a plane for Grenada and enter the country. There is still a 48 hour quarantine upon arrival for fully vaccinated persons, while the test that is required of all passengers upon arrival at the airport is screened in the lab to confirm that you test negative upon arrival. (You must pre-pay for the test before boarding the plane, at a cost of US \$50, recently reduced from the original charge of US \$150.)

So that is pretty much the current state of affairs. We have had a mask mandate in force since March of last year, which has never been lifted.

We do value and appreciate your prayers on our behalf during this time!

In Grenada,

Reuben & Susan Mains