

Yesterday, the 7th, was our Independence Day! We have been independent from the United Kingdom (Great Britain) for 47 years now. Since the 7th fell on a Sunday this year, today, the 8th, was a holiday.

We used the opportunity to go out with friends on an outing for the day for the first time in well over a year. The attached picture was where we went. It is on the east coast (windward side), which is actually the Atlantic. This beach is not safe to swim in because of strong undertows and currents, but it is a beautiful setting with strong trade wind breezes blowing all day. (For those who have been to Grenada, this is near River Antoine Estate and Lake Antoine.)

It was kind of a potluck, where we all brought something to share for a picnic lunch (3 couples, a man, and 2 young children). We put 3 large stones together to support a big pot, gathered wood and burning material from around, and had a "cook" as it's called, where we made a nice fish broth. It was a lovely day, good fellowship, and a nice break from the regular routine. We also had fresh coconut water to drink.

We also have just gone back to having all students in school every day. The term started 1 week late, and we had to have most of the students on a rotation where they came in every other day. Last Friday was our first day with all the students on the same day. It was national colours day. (Maybe I'll send a couple of pictures separately - I don't want to make the sending file too big.) All the students come dressed in national colours of red, green, and gold, rather than their regular school uniform.

Officially, we have zero active covid cases in Grenada. All covid protocols are still strictly in place. When you enter any store or public building, you have to enter your name, address, and phone # into a contact tracing log. Most places also take and record your temperature. Your hands must be sprayed with sanitizer before you are allowed to enter.

All the islands around us (Trinidad, Barbados, St. Vincent) have had community spread and have at least dozens of active cases. So Grenada maintains its vigilance to guard against community spread. Anyone who enters the country must spend 1 week in strict quarantine before being allowed to move around freely. You are transported by gov't approved transport directly to your gov't. approved accommodation and are kept there, under security watch, at your expense, until your week is up.

We are now planning to have our first service back in the Grand Anse church building the last Sunday of this month. We had been given a large donation from the USA, which is being used to prepare the front parking lot. (We had removed several feet deep of soil from in front of the church, and lowered the parking lot to much closer to the level of the road.) We will also have the Grand Anse preschool back in the building around that time. We are pretty excited about getting our building back!

In Grenada,
Reuben & Susan Mains