

Good evening!

I had started the below message 2 weeks ago, and then realized that I had not sent it. So "yesterday" was May 1st :-)

Yesterday was a holiday here - May Day, which is our version of Labor Day. Virtually all businesses were closed. Since it fell on a Sat. this year, we did not get any days off from school for it :-)

The **volcano in St. Vincent** is still rumbling. We did get a light dusting of ash, but otherwise it has not really affected us. St. Vincent is in real crisis, however. At first their greatest need was water, and the neighboring islands sent so much water that the need was met. The longer term need right now is for housing. About 20,000 Vincentians have been internally displaced on the island (moved from the north end to the south end). The need now is for small tents that can be used to sleep in outside, and sleeping bags or mats. I don't have contacts to connect you with for St. Vincent, but this seems to be the most urgent current need.

Grenada has had 2 active cases of covid arrive on the island, but they are in quarantine, so we are still essentially covid free. All covid protocols are still being strictly enforced. (That means that people are ticketed and fined for not wearing a mask.)

We currently have a flu/cold going around. 2/3 of our students were absent from school, due to illness. Of course, the rule is that if you have any cold-like symptoms, the student is not to be sent to school. We even closed the preschool for a couple of days because almost all the students were sick. Grenadians have a custom of "naming" whatever flu is going around. This one was called "4%", because there is an ongoing dispute between the gov't. and the teachers union about a promised 4% pay increase which has not yet been given.

We have 2 more months left in the school year. We will have **graduation the 1st week of July**. We will have to have the primary (elementary) students' graduation separate from the preschoolers, because we are limited to 50 people at a school function. We will not be able to have a school closing awards program once again (were not able to have it last year, either). Only the graduates and their immediate families will be allowed to attend graduation. (Last year we were one of the few schools that actually had in-person graduation, partly because we only had 7 graduates. This year we have 12 graduates from the elementary school.)

Continue to pray with us for a suitable person to replace me as principal at the school. I am prepared to transition as administrator for a time, but I'm ready to step back a bit from the daily responsibilities as principal. (I will be 65 this summer.)

The **Grand Anse church** is now working on the upstairs with some renovations. We will be moving the Grand Anse preschool back to the building for the new school year in Sept., so this is preparing for the church to use the upstairs again for church services.

Our dry season is over - we had a lot of rain at the end of April and beginning of May. Hurricane season starts in June. (We only have 2 seasons here: dry season & rainy season; the hurricane season falls within the rainy season.)

We just received 25 used chairs from the St. George's University, as they were replacing their chairs. It is an upgrade for us, and the students were delighted with their "new" chairs. (They went to the 5th & 6th graders. The younger children use smaller sized chairs.)

Reuben has been appointed as one of the "directors" of the Berean work here. That is a function of a legal trustee. It is not really "directing" the work, but serving as a legal representative of the churches and ministries.

We are planning a short, 2-week trip this summer (Aug.). We will be going to Dallas to visit Susan's mother, who we haven't been able to visit since 2019. (She just had her 92nd birthday.) Then we will be going to Atlanta to visit our grandchildren and their parents. We did notice that rental cars are about 3 times as expensive as the last time we traveled.

We don't have definite plans for other trips as yet, but we do hope to be able to visit some of our supporting churches during the next year. We look forward to be able to visit in-person with friends, supporters, and family.

Thank you for your partnership with us through prayer and giving.

In Grenada,

Reuben & Susan Mains