

Good Afternoon!

Elsa passed to the north of us. Barbados got some wind, while it was still a tropical storm. The stormy part went over St. Vincent and St. Lucia, to the north of us. We got a lot of rain, with some flooding and landslides, but no wind. It is projected to be heading towards Florida in a couple of days.

We had called off school for today since yesterday, in anticipation of the storm coming. (Today would have been our last day in school.)

Graduation is scheduled for Tues., July 6th. We will have the preschool graduation at 9:00 a.m., and the elementary school graduation at 11:00 a.m. (We have to do them separately, because we're still limited to no more than 50 people at an event.) Only the graduates and their immediate families will be in attendance.

We are working to get the upstairs ready at the Grand Anse church, so we can start having services upstairs, and the Grand Anse preschool can move back into the building for the new school year. We are installing toilets upstairs (the ones downstairs will be for the preschool). We also have to replace some windows.

It has been an exceptionally stressful school year, so we are quite happy to be on a break for a couple of months.

Enjoy the 4th of July! (Not a holiday here, of course.)

In Grenada,

Reuben & Susan Mains

Good Afternoon!

The Covid virus, delta variant, has broken through in Grenada. After holding out for 17 months as a virtually covid-free bubble, we had people test positive who were not recent arrivals to Grenada. There was a party in a community called "Happy Hill" from which 6 people tested positive, including 1 child. Since then, we now have 29 active positive cases, including 8 in the hospital. They are still waiting for results from some of the contact tracing, so those figures are expected to increase.

Although carnival was officially cancelled (it would have been Aug. 9-10), a lot of people, especially in the countryside, still went out and "played mass", as they

say. There were a lot of people mingling with no masks, and it seems that some of the cases may trace back to that.

The immediate response has been to increase the hours of curfew to 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (it had been midnight to 5:00 a.m.). All parties or social gatherings have been banned with immediate effect. (We had been operating that you had to apply for permission for any kind of social event. All permissions that had been granted have been revoked.) Weddings and funerals are limited to 20 people. They have not made any specific announcement regarding in-person church services as yet, although we have a mask mandate that was never lifted that includes all public venues, including churches. The latest announcement emphasized that this was still very much in effect, and compliance would be enforced (ticketing or possible arrest). It is possible that we will go into another lockdown, although that has not been indicated at this time.

No announcement has been made regarding the reopening of schools as yet. The new school year is scheduled to begin on the 6th of Sept. They may be waiting to see how bad the spread is, and how likely it is that it can be contained.

Please remember us in prayer at this time. We are concerned for our 120 students and their families, and our staff of 9. As much as we would like to see them back in school, we want to be confident that we can do so safely.

In Grenada,

Reuben & Susan Mains