



Corpus Christi

2 messages

Reuben Mains <mains@spiceisle.com>

Thu, May 30, 2024 at 5:05 PM

Good evening!

Today is a holiday here in Grenada called Corpus Christi. "Corpus Christi" literally means "the Body of Christ". It is a Catholic feast day. At the time it became a holiday in Grenada, the country was probably about 80% Catholic. That figure is now closer to 60%, but it is still a holiday. It is a time for Catholics to commemorate the Last Supper and is based on the Catholic teaching of transubstantiation, or that the elements in communion actually become the body and blood of Christ. So the name refers to the Catholic belief that the bread or wafer of communion does actually become the "Body of Christ" when the priest blesses it. The holiday essentially was intended to allow everyone to go to mass on the Thursday (always the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, which follows Pentecost Sunday) of Corpus Christi.

For many Grenadians, Corpus Christi means that it's time to plant because rainy season is coming. We have had a very dry (for Grenada) dry season, which has lasted for 4 months, from February to May. There have been laws that forbid anyone to start a fire outside or to wash their car with a hose (because of water shortages). Early this morning, while it was still dark, we received our first heavy rain of the rainy season, most appropriately on the day of Corpus Christi. I smiled to think of people of the older generation telling their children, "Ent I tell yuh to prepare the ground for planting?" Because the older generation lived by that rule: Plant after Corpus Christi (or on Corpus Christi). The younger generation is not as tied to the land as their parents' generation was, however, and there is simply not as much planting going on as used to be the case.

We still have 4 weeks left of school, after this week. The last regular day of school is June 28th, with graduation scheduled for July 2nd. We do have 2 months for summer break, as the school year always begins the first Monday of September (not a holiday here). I have told Sis Jessemy that I would like to announce that she will be the principal for the next school year. I would still need to continue with some administrative responsibilities, but I need to continue to step back and not be so involved in the day to day operation of the school.

I'm asking that you intercede on behalf of Susan. She has had a recurring health issue for most of her life which has recently flared up again, limiting what she can eat. This has been one of the worst episodes since we were married. Our family doctor has recommended that she go to Barbados for a consultation there. (Barbados has many more doctors and facilities than Grenada does.) So we will probably due that some time in June. (It's just a 45 min. flight.) We also have a very dear, longtime friend in Barbados who is now in a nursing home as she is no longer able to care for herself. (Signe Watson) We will definitely also plan to visit with her.

We do look forward to visiting with our grandchildren (and their parents) in Atlanta during the first week of Aug. (That will be their last week of summer vacation before their school year starts.)

In Grenada,
Reuben & Susan Mains

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Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 10:19 AM

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