



Ganson Street Baptist Church <church@gansonstreet.org>

Carriacou post Beryl

2 messages

Reuben Mains <mains@spiceisle.com>

Fri, Jul 12, 2024 at 5:41 AM

Good morning!

The text below was taken from an article written by Susan, which was posted in an online newspaper.

The picture was taken by a BCA "old boy", our term for a graduate of the school.

While we prepared and waited the entire day for the wind and rains to start lashing us, in the south of the island, Beryl passed with just the strength of a tropical storm. The silence from the north of the island and from the little islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique was deafening. We were hearing nothing. No phone calls were getting through. Then, slowly, pictures started appearing on social media.

The small islands were devastated because the eye of the hurricane had passed directly over them. Wind force of 150 mph ripped away houses in their entirety, sunk boats, downed power lines, disrupted water supplies. 95% of the buildings were damaged or destroyed. Agriculture was laid waste by the salt water blast and wind. People died from being crushed in their fallen houses. The jetty at the main port was damaged, as was the runway of the airport.



Carriacou post hurricane Beryl. Photo: Arthur Daniel

The immediate response for provided essentials from the surrounding islands was phenomenal. Food, water, clothing, tarpaulins were ferried in boats of all kinds. Immediate needs were very quickly attended to. This truly speaks to the identity of Caribbean people. In a disaster, they step up for each other. However, recovery from a hurricane is not a sprint; it is a marathon. The housing stock is essentially gone. Rebuilding homes with a more

hurricane-resistant structure will be years in the making. Medical services, educational facilities, shipping, commerce — every area of life will need to be resurrected.

I (Reuben) would add, that Samaritan's Purse did come in quickly, providing some much needed immediate help, such as water desalination, to make fresh water available from the surrounding sea. The electrical grid is destroyed in Carriacou and will take some time to rebuild. They are looking at installing power lines underground, which will help in future hurricanes, but it also means that they will be without power for months. There were a few buildings that only suffered minor damage, including the home of the parents of our preschool teacher. She said that their roof stayed on, but they had broken windows and doors. (Her father is a builder.) She did not hear from them for about a week after the storm.

In the northern part of Grenada, all water has been restored and is fully functional, and most people have their power back.

By the way, we had our graduation this Wednesday, the 10th of July, which was originally scheduled for the 2nd of July. The government had made an announcement that no school was to have their graduation during the week of July 1-5, while the country was dealing with the immediate recovery from the hurricane. (A few high schools had had their graduation on June 28th, just before the hurricane.) The school year officially ended July 5th, but most of the schools had their graduation this week, as a result.

We will be going to Atlanta for the 1st week of August to visit our grandchildren (and their parents).

In Grenada,
Reuben & Susan Mains

Ganson Street Baptist Church <church@gansonstreet.org>

Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 10:24 AM

To: Carolee Skinkle <cjskinkle@aol.com>, Nancy Zuver <newzuv@gmail.com>, Josiah <josiah.d.miles@gmail.com>, John Hyatt <michomine@aol.com>, Allen Grover <pastorallen@gansonstreet.org>, Lori Barnes <barneslori46@gmail.com>, Kevin McClain <macclan642@gmail.com>, Rhinard & Barbara Jordon <rhinardjordon@sbcglobal.net>

Alyssa Grover
Administrative Assistant
Ganson Street Baptist Church

517-782-8574

[Quoted text hidden]