

MARCH 2008 REPORT

April 14, 2008

Dear brethren,

We trust that you are all well, as we are. March was busy, with Dana and I each being gone 10 days and we had David Hurst and Jim Canada visit a couple of days on each end of my trip to Grenada. Ed was gone 2 weeks in there as well, so it was hectic for all of us. It's raining again—it rained a couple of hours this morning, so the temperature is only 77 right now. We don't have many days like this in the dry season and it's about a month early for the rainy season to start, so I'm not sure what this portends. Fortunately they just called to say the window screens for downstairs are now ready—windows are sold without the screens here, so we've been saving to get them made.

The work at Caparra Terrace continues pretty much the same—attendance in English has stabilized at 12 now and the Spanish congregation varies between 23 and 35. We study with Bobby Rodriguez, who was baptized in Feb., and his mother Annie every Wed. They are both learning and enjoying the studies—we are praying that Annie will make the decision to be baptized shortly. We have set up 2 different classes with 2-4 of the visitors, but they have not taken place yet. There is one bright spot though, Nelly, one of the visitors who has been living with a man for some time got married last Sunday, which I believe is a direct response to the Gospel—she "knows" she cannot live in fornication and become a Christian. Her mother has been a Christian a little over a year and is one of 2 Christians who came in this group. Plans are also being made to start a ladies class in the home of one of the English speaking sisters, probably the first of May.

We began studying the 7 lesson series we use for personal work on Wed. night (in English)—"Does it matter how we serve God?" The first 2 lessons were very well received, but I'm afraid that the next two dealing with the organization of the church and the collection weren't received as well. 1 or 2 seem to want to give lip service to "book, chapter, and verse" but don't necessarily want to apply that to everything. We should finish this study by the first Sunday in May. Beginning in June Ed will teach a series with the theme, "God wants you to be successful", which will last 4-6 weeks. We began preaching from the book of Ephesians in March and should conclude that sometime in May.

David Hurst and I were in Grenada from the 11th-20th and that trip went better than I had expected. David preached from Sun-Wed for the church in St. George's while I spent the same time preaching in Mt. Granby, both of which are on the western side of the island. St. George's is near the bottom, above the anchor and Mt. Granby is a mile or so east of Gouyave toward the north side. Although St. George's, the capital, is much bigger than Mt. Granby attendance was about the same—we had 33 Sun. morning in Mt. Granby, with 20-26 the rest of the week. Few people have a car, so they rely on public transportation, usually taxi-vans. St. George's church hires a taxi to pick up the members for both Sunday services, but the driver overslept that night, so they didn't make it and I think he works during the week, so they didn't come then either. There were several visitors from the church in Grand Anse and La Sagesse, both liberal every night.

We found all the churches discouraged in Grenada. Ernest Roberts moved back to Grenada in Aug, which has helped at St. George's but I think he's the only full time preacher on the island now. None of the liberal preachers are receiving support anymore so they are teaching school or driving taxi or getting into politics. Richard LeBlanc, whom I had met in Dominica, preaches for La Sagesse and told David the second night that he really needed these lessons—he was a little discouraged. The Grand Anse church doesn't have a preacher, so a number of them visited each night. I think we have some good opportunities on the island, if we can follow up on them. People are generally receptive and, at least in the country, will stop for a Bible study. David and I spent most of 3 days in Mt. Granby and had all the studies we had time for. They must be followed up, of course, and we are trusting that Ernest and Steve Perrotte, a young man of 31 who is basically the only man in Mt. Granby, will do just that. It's interesting that while people stopped for a Bible study it wasn't because they have nothing to do—Donna, for example, was busy the whole time we talked, one day preparing nutmegs for sale then tamarind the next time. Grenada is called the "Isle of Spice" since it is the 2nd largest producer of nutmeg in the world and also produces cinnamon, mace, cloves, allspice, and ginger. It's been 6 years since I was in Grenada, so the damage done by Hurricane Georges in 2006 (I think) was obvious to me. There used to be nutmeg trees everywhere around Mt. Granby, but the majority of them were destroyed, so while it's green, it's not the lush green it was before.

Next week I am to be with the church in Castries, St. Lucia. They're checking me out and I'm checking them out as well. They are associated with the liberals, but I hear the preacher is very conservative. He's very concerned about the "denominational doctrine" the young preachers are now preaching, so I'm thinking he may be open to discussion. Please pray for this effort.

Your brother,

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