

Groggs in Dominica

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10/01/2021

Volume 1 – Issue 10

Intercession for our Friends

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Today, before you read our newsletter, please take a moment and pray for our friends, a missionary family in South Africa. Our hearts have been deeply saddened this week as we read the news that their 15-year-old son took his life. While he is now resting in the arms of Jesus, his family and friends are in the throes of grief. I cannot, in good conscience, write this newsletter of good tidings without asking all of you to stop and pray for our friends before reading further. Pray for travel arrangements as they plan returning to Indiana. Thank you.

The Long-Awaited Is finally here!

There was much anticipation as we watched the truck bring our shipping container down the hill. Wait, HILL?!? That's right, so much for trying to keep a fully loaded container level. We're in Dominica, land



It almost felt like Christmas when Jason first started taking items, one by one, out of the container. Everyone wanted to watch and some wanted to help. We were warned not to accept help outside of FMS staff because fast hands cause items to

disappear and "services" are expected to be paid for.

Miss Lena (FMS Director) realized that we'd need a place to put our items as we sort out the

container. She knew we would still need to store things since

PRAISE

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- The girls have made fast friends with a 15 year old from Feed My Sheep.
- The shipping container is now safely on FMS property. The fit and placement couldn't be better.
- Customs for the container went extremely well.
- So far, we've only found one damaged item in the container, a plastic bin. No biggie.

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"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:2



of volcanoes (AKA mountains)!

we're currently living in a fully furnished rental. With all that in mind, she decided to give us a "home away from home."

Groggden

Our Safe Space at FMS.

There is a small apartment at the very back of Feed My Sheep. It's now "ours!" When we have long days working there or need a place to crash when we're out and about, we have one. This area has a rather spacious kitchen, a living/dining area, bedroom, bathroom and storage room. Granted, it hasn't been used in a long time and after the hurricane of 2017, it had 15 people living in it.

Things are broken, dirty and not very secure, but with some of the FMS staff, we're slowly working on making Groggden (a den for us Groggs) livable. We'll make a before and after compilation at some point, I'm sure.

A 17th Birthday

And overflowing hearts.

When Deborah found out Hannah was turning 17 on the 29th, she showed interest. As the date came closer, I realized this was no ordinary "interest." By the time Hannah's birthday dawned, plans were set in place for a spa pedicure, lunch at La Petit Paris in Roseau, catered supper and a professionally baked cake.

All this was shared with Miss Lena, Deborah, the girl's new but still shy friend Shekinah (AKA Radiance) who wasn't shy once the night was over (AT ALL) and our

neighbors up the hill, Guy, N'Jelle and their two boys, Goran and Garvey. There was so much food, smiles, love shared, laughter, music and dancing. The view and the sunset were awed and God was praised. Our hearts were full and overflowing. We all went to bed filled with His love, peace and strengthened friendships.

On a side note, it's the custom here to give congratulations to the mom of the birthday child. So, while Hannah was getting a pedicure (which I also got), I was given a massage by Deborah. 😊



Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

PRAYER

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- Two of our kids got sick this week, one night after the other. Thankfully, both were well by morning. We were given recipes for herbal "bush" tea from both neighbors and Deborah. One neighbor even made us a batch and sent her husband down with it. We were reminded that the bacteria here is different than in the US. We need to build antibodies and should expect to be sick more often than normal for the first year.

- A source of income that still allows us to minister to Feed My Sheep and those around us.

- We're looking at a vehicle prospect Saturday. Pray for discernment please.

- Wisdom regarding our next rental (or house purchase?) and softness of heart to clearly hear God's voice and what He wants for us.

Long-Term PRAYER

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- To gather from here everything required to submit work/residence permits successfully.

- No hurricanes on Dominica until enough connections have been made to be useful.

- No major health issues.

Groggs in Dominica

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10/09/2021

Volume 1 – Issue 11

Cruise Control and My Four Cs

Comfort, Convenience, Closeness, Coziness...I miss them all. The comfort of familiarity, convenience of everything at your fingertips, closeness of family and friends and the coziness of home.

I know I'm not the only one who's been living with the Cs on cruise control. We go about our daily lives without really concentrating on any of it. It's when those things are gone that we suddenly realize how comfortable we had it. These realizations come in waves over most of us differently and at different times. I'm glad for that since it means we can encourage and comfort each other through it.

I know comfort from familiarity will come, in time. The amount of time varies depending on who I talk to. On the bright side, Dominica is SO small, you can't help but get to know how to get to places pretty quick. I know how to get to a couple staple locations in Mahaut now (two grocery stores and the fresh market) and I've been "to town" (aka the capital, Roseau) twice and remembered how to get to a good restaurant and the main grocery store.

Speaking of Roseau, going "to town," brings much more

convenience than Mahaut. The larger grocery store makes me feel a bit more like I'm shopping at home. Hardware stores are in plenty and Roseau has a Do It store and a True Value. We went into a Payless but were also told you can sometimes get better quality goods from the street vendors. I haven't stopped at any yet though. That's outside my comfort zone still. 😊

Closeness. Not much needs said here. Having lived 18 years in the same town with both our parents, Jason's only being three doors away, we've definitely been blessed. I'm very thankful for technology to know that if we need to talk, we can. Making new friends is a huge blessing though and the staff of Feed My Sheep have basically adopted us and we feel very welcomed by Mahaut Gospel Tabernacle.

As far as cozy goes, our rental is actually very nice. It's fully furnished, has a view that can't be beat, there are hardly any mosquitoes, plenty of breeze, decent privacy and absolutely wonderful neighbors. The bus that runs our road multiple times a day into town makes being without a vehicle not all bad.

The Necessities Food and Electric

There's a fresh fruit market in every village from what I'm

PRAISE

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- A place to store our things while unpacking the shipping container.
- Many new acquaintances that are turning into friends.
- Jason has been having good conversations regarding the Scriptures with those God has been bringing into his path.

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PRAYER

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- Jason and I have been having trouble with recurring elbow issues.
- A source of income that still allows us to freely minister to Feed My Sheep and those around us.
- Our vehicle search is ongoing.
- Wisdom regarding our next rental (or house purchase?) and softness of heart to clearly hear God's voice and what He wants for us.

Long-Term PRAYER

...

- No hurricanes on Dominica until enough connections have been made to be useful.

told, even if I don't recognize all the produce and avocados are called pears (What?!). I'm slowly gathering the courage to ask what things are and how to use them.

Grocery stores seem to be in abundance, in various sizes. Their shelves are full, even if the quantities are smaller, prices higher, and some of the things I relied on (like ground beef) aren't really a thing here.

Electricity, we all use it, but do you know how much you use on a daily basis? We sure didn't. Our rental is set up on a pay-as-you-go system and our usage has been eye-opening.

Apparently, pay-as-you-go (or "top up") is more expensive than the other option, which I'm not sure what that is yet. We've been shut off once when we went negative but getting turned back on is basically the flip of a switch once you've topped up again. Topping up can be done at almost any convenience store. You give the registrar your account name and number and give the amount you want to top up.

Happy Anniversary!
Tomorrow marks ONE month!

In honor of the occasion, we polled the kids. 😊 (We also took a sight-seeing trip but more on that later.)

The questions were:

1. What's your favorite thing so far?
2. What has been the most challenging?
3. What have you liked the least?

4. One thing you're looking forward to.

Here are their responses:

Hannah:

- 1- The passion fruit drinks
- 2- Are we talking besides EVERYTHING?!
- 3- Leaving everyone behind that I have ever known, not being able to understand people, the terrible craftsmanship and the lifestyle here.
- 4- Being able to build a nice, American house, insulated with a pool and a dog.

Gracia:

- 1- The terrain
- 2- Making good friends
- 3- The loud rain at night because I can't get good sleep.
- 4- Seeing friends and family again.

Elijah:

- 1- The rawness of everything. You can do things without a lot of red tape and the freedom to set up shop in the street.
- 2- Dealing with people you can't understand and one particular child, also the mask mandate.
- 3- That the Dominicans aren't trying to provide for themselves. They're becoming too dependent on the gov't and other countries. And the stupid masks.
- 4- Cats. Lots of cats. And starting a donut shop.

Nathan:

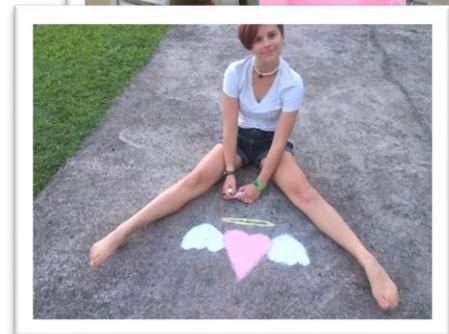
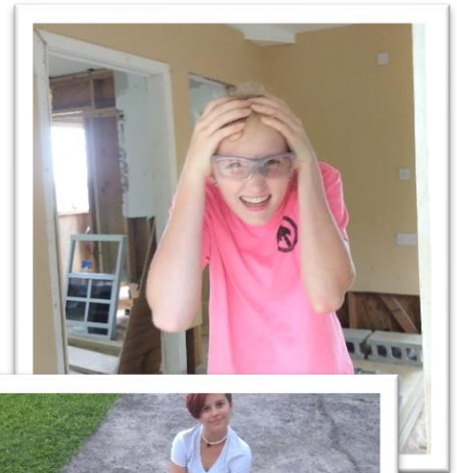
- 1- Catching lizards plus crabs.

2- Leaving both Grandpas, the trains and bike rides.

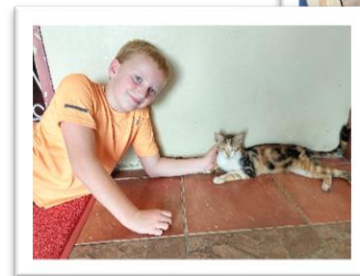
3- Leaving family members and friends from church.

4- Making trains in Dominica

Pics: Hannah, trying to hide her crazy curls after working in the high humidity. Gracia's chalk creation. Elijah and "her" hammer.



Nathan & FMS's Mama cat, Mrs. Clean (AKA Queen.)



Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the **Groggs**

Groggs in Dominica

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10/16/2021

Volume 1 – Issue 12

Scott's Head *Tourists for a Day*

It was actually more like a couple hours, but hey, that doesn't read as well. 😊 Scott's Head is a tiny village on the south-west of Dominica. Beyond that, you cross a rock isthmus to the uninhabited historic peninsula.

After having parked on the passage and enjoyed the sound of the Atlantic crashing into and moving the many rocks it's made of, we hiked up. Along with our friend's girlfriend, I stopped at the info area which contained a really old canon that had been used to defend the island. Our friend and the rest of the family hiked up to the very top!

The view was absolutely stunning, or, would have been if there wasn't such a haze over everything. A Saharan dust cloud and Spain's La Palma volcano ash had traveled on the winds to our location. There were also many cacti!



Security Upgrades *A Need for Boundaries*

This past week Jason visited the locksmith in Roseau (turns out he's from Alabama) to get all new locks for Groggden and to make sure they're keyed alike for simplicity.

The need for greater security and watchfulness has been pressed upon us ever since our arrival at Feed My Sheep. So many eyes watching and so many fingers wanting.



With the tools we brought for Jason to teach and create a livelihood with, there is great investment in what we're storing there.

The new locks are just the first step in our process to make not just Groggden secure, but all of FMS. Jason already has a handful of students lined up to teach once the electric is set up to run his tools. These classes will start being taught in the "sanctuary" area of the Mission so we need to make sure it's a

PRAISE

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- We are in the process of vetting a truck we found. It has mechanical issues that we're taking up with a local mechanic to see if it's worth the buy.

- I made Jason a digital business card. It's being shared around and has brought a possible interview next week. For what exactly, we don't know yet.

Jason Grogg
Specialized Contractor
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- Welding
- Carpentry
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- Solar Power

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American Standards

- There's only one and a half months left of hurricane season!



very difficult place to steal from.

One of the next steps will be to build a fence or gated wall around the backside of FMS. We hope to be creating a video on this project soon.

Driblets on the Side *The Personal Side, that is.*

While in the throes of packing, our neighbor back in the States allowed us to have Kinetic Sand she was going to sell at her yard sale. It was found this week and put to play right away.



My “precious” cargo got set up this week. While we would have liked for it to be at our rental, the electrical would have made it very difficult. Feed My Sheep runs both 120 and 220 volts making the logical choice to keep the piano at Groggden for the time being. We’re all



thankful my parents brought it over before we left and that it made the journey safely.

The kittens at FMS are growing rapidly and so is Eliyah’s heart-felt desire to bring one home.



Each time she asks (begs?) we have to say no. We don’t have permission to keep one at the rental and we don’t have money for vet bills yet. However, the other mama cat on the property is pregnant...

How animals are cared for has been a huge change for us. Mostly, they seem to run “wild.” They are fed scraps from the table or left to fend for themselves. They are not given vet care even though he makes his rounds to those that request it, bringing flea/tick and worm meds.



Yesterday, Jason and three kids were busy helping our neighbors, Desmond and Annette, again. They’re trying hard to get one house finished before they come to the States for the Holidays. Gracia and I made bread while cleaning and tidying the house. 😊

Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

PRAYER

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- The lack of vehicle is testing both Jason’s and my patience. We’ve never had to deal with this type of “inconvenience” before.

- We still have not been granted permission to open a bank account and that’s making the moving of funds very difficult.

- A source (or sources) of income that still allows us to freely minister to Feed My Sheep and those around us.

- Wisdom regarding our next rental (or house purchase?) and softness of heart to clearly hear God’s voice and what He wants for us, not just what WE want.

Long-Term PRAYER

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- To gather what we need to successfully apply for and be granted our work/residence permits.

- No hurricanes on Dominica until enough connections have been made to be useful.

...

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Philippians 4:19-20

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10/30/2021

Volume 1 – Issue 13

From the Beginning *A Couple Words in Genesis*

More like a whole sermon! Jason spent over a week studying and pulling resources to teach at Mahaut Gospel Tabernacle this past Sunday.

The whole family started it off with a couple songs. Malcom played the keyboard and Brother Irvin, the drums. My anxiety was rather high since we'd only practiced with Malcom once and Brother Irvin not at all. That being the case though, I think it went rather well.

Jason did a really good job going through Genesis. You can tell he enjoys teaching and he's good at it.

The Sunday Comics *Best First Piece of Mail Ever!*

Not much could beat getting the comics in the mail. When I was in college, my mom would send them to me every week. Back in the States, we'd go to my parent's every Friday and the kids would catch up on all the comics.

Things are a little different now and we're trying to figure out the mail system here. It's not on the "up and up" at all. You're not guaranteed to receive anything sent through regular mail.



After roughly three weeks in transit though, the first Sunday colored comics arrived and the kids soaked them in.

The black and white comics are getting delivered to them via email. I'm certainly glad for technology.

Soon, we're planning on renting a PO Box in Roseau so we can receive more mail. I was told renting one here in Mahaut is completely inadvisable. Most houses here don't have numbers and sometimes there's not even a street name to be found.

Kids of Mahaut *Life has been seen!*

For the first time since we've been here, I've seen kid activity. Mostly older looking, they were playing on a field as Jason and I walked by. I think maybe it was soccer, or football, as they call it here.

I'm sure some of you have been wondering more about Feed My Sheep's kids. For the first couple weeks we were here, I wondered that too, having seen only one.

PRAISE

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- The neighbors Jason has been helping very graciously allowed us to transfer money into their US account, allowing them to then move it to their bank here and give it back to us in cash. They have been a huge blessing.

- Jason was asked to give advice on a build project just north of us, in Salsbery. The build is still waiting for government approval.

I finally got up the courage to ask. Because of Covid policies regarding numbers of people gathered in one place, the children have been sent to other homes. Right now, FMS only has 3 full-time kids living there and two mothers with their children.



The activities FMS use to put on for their kids and the village kids have not been allowed for a long time. Children are encouraged to stay indoors to prevent “the spread.” School is still virtual. You don’t normally see kids walking the streets or hanging out like they used to. They’re “wasting away” behind the screens of whatever tech is available to them.

Grocery Shopping

My Favorite so far, S-Mart

What I really want to do for you all is go shopping while taking a video so you can see



the differences and similarities. However, I’m not a vlogger, nor do I have the bravery of one. I don’t like people looking at me and shopping while videoing



would only give them an extra reason to stare at the white woman. 😊

While these pics aren’t S-Mart, I did manage to take a couple last time I was at Fresh Mart. They’ll give you a small taste. I probably like S-Mart the most though because it’s the closest like home that I’ve found so far. The little store near FMS, J&M, is probably the least like home. Someday, I’ll task a kid with taking a video while I shop. 😊

Insect Life

Picture is life-size.

There’s not much that raises the hair on my arms, beyond being cold that is. And normally, I don’t mind caterpillars. But this was different and there were two of them. Deep down, I felt they could take over if

they really wanted to and that, gave me the chills. The kids, however, wanted to bring them home, I think. After research, some we decided they were Tetrio Sphinx Caterpillars (they turn into moths) and they’re found as far north as Pennsylvania! Although, I don’t think they get as big up there.



Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

PRAYER

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- We’re still waiting patiently (well, trying anyway) on a vehicle.

- Getting a bank account is proving even harder than it already seemed. We’re still without to no fault of our bank in the States. They’ve been wonderful.

- A source (or sources) of income that still allows us to freely minister to Feed My Sheep and those around us.

- Wisdom regarding our next rental (or house purchase?) and softness of heart to clearly hear God’s voice and what He wants for us, not just what WE want.

Long-Term PRAYER

...

- To gather what we need to successfully apply for and be granted our work/residence permits.

...

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

~ Hebrews 12:1