

Grexit to Dominica

Follow us: Gab.com/JasonJenn

9/3/2021

Volume 1 ~ Issue 6

One Week to Go

With tensions heightening.

A while back I bought a set of silicone bracelets, fourteen different Bible verses. I had a hard time picking out one or two to wear. I need them all. I finally settled on "Jesus is My Strength," referencing Phil. 4:13 and "Trust God," Prov. 3:5-6. I try to read them daily.



With our deadline for flying out approaching so quickly, it seems as though there is still much to do, too much. It's then that I remind myself to Trust God, knowing that He has called us to this and He will give us the strength we need.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ~ Philippians 4:13

Serious Packing

Versus Not Serious?

As I write, Jason and the kids are busily gathering all the filled totes lying around, taking them to our shipping container. I'm so thankful we were able to drop the container just a block from our house. It has been such a blessing! God is good!

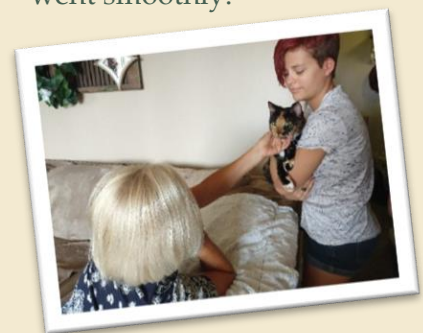


In an effort to travel lighter (and cheaper), we decided to limit each person to three pieces of luggage instead of

PRAISE

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- The cargo trailer is in the shipping container and it went very well! Thank you all for your prayers!
- Everything appears to be going well for the pickup (Sept. 8th) and transfer of our shipping container.
- Our cats are at their new forever home. The move went smoothly.



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

four. That brought a bit of panic from the girls but they reorganized and have done a great job narrowing their personal items down.

Financial Need

If God Leads You

As with most things in life, moving is not cheap, especially moving out of the country. As our shipping time has neared, the cost of transporting our container has risen. If you feel led to help financially, please let us know. You may respond to this email or call Jason on his cell at 765-860-9472.

Our Flights

And prepping for them.

None of the kids have flown commercial. The most they've done is a quick trip around Logansport during our local airport's open house.

This trip is a little trickier due to Covid. Today I scheduled all of us for our first round of testing to be completed no more than 72 hours before take-off. Please pray with us that all tests will return negative.

In addition to testing jitters, Gracia and I both have motion sickness issues. I purchased some Ginger gum and Dramamine to try and help with that.

Jason printed a layout of all three airports. He has shown the kids so they can have a better idea of what'll be going on and where we'll be on the 10th. If you'd like to follow along as we head south, I've included our flight plan.

Friday, September 10, 2021			
IND 6:43 AM Indianapolis	→	CLT 8:31 AM Charlotte	
American Airlines 4636 OPERATED BY REPUBLIC AIRWAYS AS AMERICAN EAGLE.			
CLT 9:26 AM Charlotte	→	SJU 1:18 PM San Juan	
American Airlines 1852			
SJU 3:15 PM San Juan	→	DOM 5:00 PM Dominica	
American Airlines 8204			

Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

Prayer

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- Continued prayers for the cats (Toby Mac & Mandisa) to adjust quickly to their new home.
- The price to ship our container to come down.
- All Covid tests (3 per person) to return negative
- To gather from here, everything that's required to submit our work/residence permit successfully.

Long-Term Prayer

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- No hurricanes on Dominica until we've made enough connections to be useful.
- Enough finances so Jason can focus on helping repair Feed My Sheep instead of looking for jobs to support us.
- Quick and easy cultural adjustments and Godly friends for the kids.
- That we stay healthy.

Countdown:
One week

Grexit to Dominica

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9/12/2021

Volume 1 ~ Issue 7

We're Here!!

It Feels Surreal.

Where do I start? Our trip to Indy for the night on Thursday? Our 3:30 am wake up on Friday? Yes, let's start there. Breakfast was not available yet, imagine. 😊 Although, that early one's stomach is still asleep. We waited outside the hotel for our shuttle. When it came, it was almost full. Our luggage filled the front. Jason, of course, talked to the passengers and there were

several eager questions and comments. Departing Indy wasn't too bad. We had only one piece of luggage over the 50lb. weight limit and that was easily dispersed into another bag, eliminating a hefty fee. No one slept on that flight as there was plenty of vocal exclamations from the kids about how cool everything was. This was their first commercial flight ever.

"Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your Name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." ~ Psalm 115:1

Air Time

Three trips in one day.

Our first flight of the day, from Indy, was on time. For some reason though, we had to fill out a gov't form for Puerto Rico even though we weren't even leaving the airport. Turns out, it wasn't needed. We arrived early in

Charlotte but were delayed waiting for another plane to back out of our spot. We barely made it to our next gate, headed to Puerto Rico. During this time, Gracia didn't seem to have any

PRAISE

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- WE MADE IT!

Pics: Friday sunrise flying out of Indy. First sight of Dominica. Dominica airport check in. Two taxis picking us up to travel to Picard Beach, our Safe in Nature.



problems with motion sickness. As for me, I held it together until after the landing of flight number two. It was pretty rough. During our layover in Puerto Rico, I added Dramamine to the 2 natural items I was already using as we filled out Dominica forms and the others ate Domino's Pizza.

Our last and final flight was on a prop plane that was only slightly less full than the previous planes. I'm not sure there was an empty seat among them. Earplugs would have been advisable.

TSA & Customs

God's Favor & Blessings.

Talk about smooth sailing, or, how about flying. A dog was on duty in Indy but didn't alert and the TSA agent for our line was super cool and even elicited a fist-bump between him and Nathan. He ushered us right through.

In Dominica, we took our time getting off the plane and into line for all our paperwork. By the time we made it to Customs, I think the agent was ready to be home. He asked what was in our bags but didn't ask to open any of them!

SIN

"Safe In Nature"

Do you ever look at initials before naming something, or someone? I normally don't and apparently the Dominica gov't doesn't either. No matter though, our Safe In Nature is amazing! We are at Picard Beach Cottages located near Portsmouth. The girls have their own cabin since they only sleep three. Nathan is with us but is spending most of his time in the water.

The D Can

AKA Shipping Container

That thing was supposed to be picked up Wednesday, while we were still in the States, then Thursday. Friday? Nope. How about Saturday? Wait, we're already in Dominica. Thankfully, Jason's Dad had agreed to take care of it and with some switching of equipment, finally got it loaded onto the flatbed and she's on her way to Florida. We'll keep you posted. (Check out gab for more pictures!)

Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

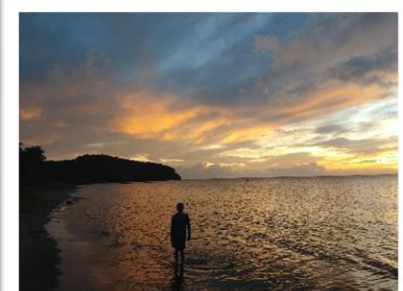
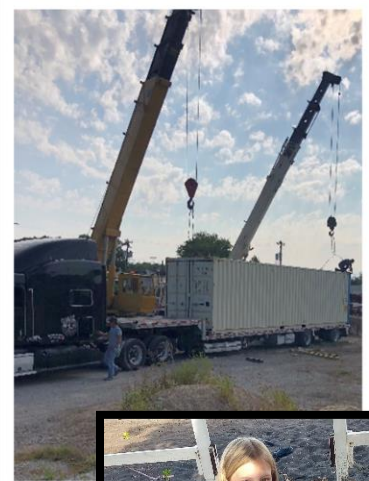
Prayer

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- Minimal to no content damage in the shipping container from the pickup and travel.

- Final Covid tests (on the 15th) to return negative.

Pics: Double crane shipping container load onto flatbed. A cat met the girls at their cabin our very first night. They've named him Sunflower. Sunset Saturday night with Nathan.



Groggs in Dominica

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9/19/2021

Volume 1 – Issue 8

Jailed on the Beach *AKA Quarantine*

If one had to be in jail, what better place than the beach? Picard Beach Cottages treated us very well. Six nights on a private beach, the 6 of us split between 2 neighboring cottages. Roma, the day security guard took our temps every morning but otherwise, we were left alone. The Beach's night guard, Joe, was very friendly and even tried to help me and Gracia find more crabs to watch one evening. The beach and local wildlife were a great outlet for the kids since we weren't allowed to go anywhere.

Early on, we were very blessed when Deborah brought us a "cart load" of groceries to stock our fridge and shelves. She even had the foresight to bring us boxed mac 'n cheese! Some comfort food was definitely in order. That included the local pizza we ordered one night.

Back to the mac 'n cheese though, it was made in the US! We found that pretty interesting. Now, we regularly look to see where our products are made. Several come from Costa Rica and therefore are labeled half in Spanish and English.

One local, Dominica product that will probably be a staple in our fridge is the Passion Fruit

Syrup. You mix 1 part syrup to 2 parts water and it makes a very tasty drink. Some other firsts for us would be Custard, although that's not a local item in the least. Oats made with Custard might be a Grogg thing though. It was an experiment that turned out well.

Released! *Free to Roam*

Wednesday the 15th brought our driver, Andy, to take us to Portsmouth Hospital for our final Covid test. It was a short drive, but when we arrived there was a long line, all waiting to take the promoted antigen test. The sign on the hospital said if you're antigen negative, come back and get your vaccine to keep you safe from "Covid the killer."

Lies are profuse here and fear is spread. However, in everyday life, most Dominicans seem to function like normal, just with masks, of all shapes, sizes and materials, on some part of their face. Guidelines don't seem to be followed until foreigners show up. When our driver told the nurse we were there for an appointment, she shoed all the waiting people off the stoop, reminding them all the while, to keep 6 feet of distance.

The next day, we packed up in preparation for release. By mid-morning, Joe showed up with

PRAISE

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- Our final Covid tests all came back negative!
- We are safe and sound in our short-term rental, a property called New Providence.
- We continue to keep an eye on forming disturbances in the Atlantic and they have yet to come our way.



the great news that we were all negative and he took our quarantine bands off. Many praises to our Lord! He is good!

New Providence

Our Short-Term Rental

Once again, we called on Andy. He made the 45-50 minute drive with us from Picard to our new temporary home. As always, we peppered him with questions along the way. We learned such things as: there are no stoplights and very few stop signs. There is no speed limit, just don't pass in towns. If you no longer want, or can't afford your vehicle, just leave it on the side of the road. Eventually, someone will take care of it. Vehicle brakes are changed every three months. There are right-side driving vehicles on the road. Honk before rounding tight curves so oncoming vehicles know you're there. Many houses are simply abandoned as their owners prefer to build new instead of fixing what's damaged.

Our trip ended 950 feet up a mountain ridge. An open red gate and neon green house welcomed us. The caretaker and groundskeeper were on hand to make sure we received whatever help we needed. Farewells to Andy were said and we started making ourselves at home.

There's so much room! We have a kitchen, living room, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and laundry room. Our dining room is apparently the front porch since that's where the only table is. (Check Gab for a video!) For the first time in her life, Hannah has her own bedroom and is taking great advantage of

it. We have learned the water is solar powered and cold showers are a possibility.

Multiple shades of green and a variety of flowers greet us every morning. Then there are the birds, butterflies and lizards in great abundance. A couple of the latter now have shorter tails due to Nathan's failed capture attempts.

The Caretaker has brought us Bread Fruit, Grapefruit and Pawpaw from the property and showed us how to peel the sugar cane the Groundskeeper brought us. I found out that fresh fish and bread can be bought from trucks driving Campbell Road if they have any leftover once Market ends for the day. These trucks blow a horn as they drive up, letting everyone know they're coming.

Shopping & Errands

Simply Crazyiness

Friday, Jason, Hannah, Deborah, her cousin and his son all went on some errands. I stayed home with Nathan since he was nursing a sore heel. Our first day, the first hour even, he found some glass to step on.

Thinking back on it, Friday may not have been the best day for their first trip into town. In Hannah's words, it was "pure and utterly controlled chaos." She liked their lack of guidelines and instructions you have to follow. She then specifically referenced the bus system. If you want on, you wait by the road. When you want off, you tell the driver to stop and they do. Doesn't matter where it is.

PRAYER

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- Shipping Container: continued safe traveling aboard the Tropical Unity and minimal to no damage from all the loading and unloading.
- God's favor when the container arrives in port and goes through Customs.
- An unloading location (even if temporary) for our shipping container.
- Wisdom regarding our next rental and softness of heart to clearly hear God's voice what He wants for us.



Sadly, for the rest of us, Jason and Hannah were gone for almost seven hours. He was able to take care of switching our currency and phones (you all can still use our US numbers though). Hannah spent some quality time with Deborah and saw her house, which is still undergoing renovation from the hurricane. Each shop they entered, they had to sanitize their hands and at several, a person was manning the door making sure your mask covered your nose and mouth.

On their way back up to our rental, they stopped at Feed My Sheep and were warmly greeted by Miss Lena and then promptly and loudly prayed over and thanks was given to God for our safe arrival.

Saturday, we ALL took our first trip into Mahaut. We caught a bus on its way up to Campbell (past our rental) and asked him to stop on his way down. We waited by the roadside and about 15 minutes later we were headed down the mountain. Our first stop was a small shop so we could see what they offered and get a feel for it.

After the shop, we walked back up the road to Feed My Sheep where all of us got to meet Lena Augustine, the founder. The kids found cats AND kittens inside. Lena offered one to them. Not yet, we said.

Lena then paid for us to each have an Ice Pop from a local shop on the way to Deborah's rental. These were small, tied bags filled with what I would call a smoothie. Jason and I got coconut, three of the kids got cookies and cr me and Gracia choose peanut, which she said tasted like the inside of a Reese

Cup. Funny thing is, we tried opening the bags by untying the knots at the top. They were too tight though and our guide, Deborah's niece, said you just bite the corner off and enjoy that way. She had a pretty good laugh with us.

Such a different way of life in every way. Sidewalks were sometimes nonexistent. Gutters are wide and deep and had to be jumped over at times. Chickens seemed to be running free in abundance. Trash was scattered about. People and vehicles were everywhere.

We were all sweating pretty decent when it was time for the return trip. We had walked around Mahaut, from local shops to Feed My Sheep, Deborah's house and the market, back to our bus pick up. Next time, we'll make sure to go much earlier, when it's cooler out.

By now, we all realize I overflowed my 2-page, self-imposed newsletter limit, but there was so much to say this time around and I have more pictures I wanted to share. I will try to not make this a habit though. 😊

Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

Pics (top to btm): Passion Fruit syrup, G's crab at Picard Beach, one house cluster on our drive to New Providence.

New Providence, view out the kitchen door, fresh sugar cane.

G w/one of FMS' kittens, N on Deborah's balcony, the kids waiting for our ride back home.

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.

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

- Continued health.



Groggs in Dominica

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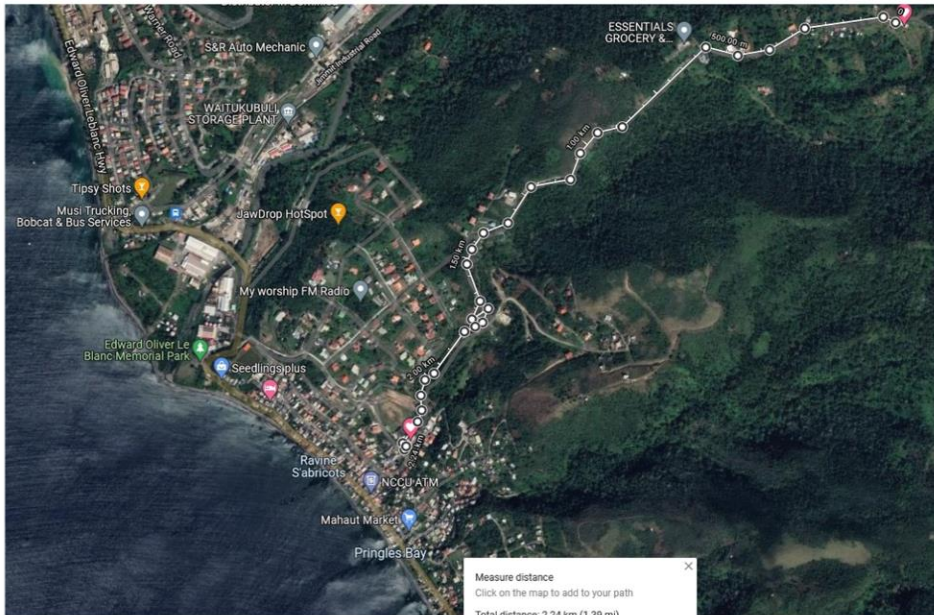
9/24/2021

Volume 1 – Issue 9

Walk or Ride? *It's Sunday, walk!*

That's right, buses don't run on Sunday. And since we have yet to locate a suitable vehicle, we decided to walk to church at Mahaut Gospel Tabernacle, located at Feed My Sheep.

There is much to be said about church services in other countries. One has to remember that even though there's only one Way to God (through Jesus, His Son) there isn't only one way to worship. So, from 10:30 until past 1:00 we were a part of a Dominican worship service.



Not even 1.5 miles! How is that possible? I felt like we'd walked a lifetime and probably looked it too. Thankfully, there wasn't much traffic on Campbell Road on a Sunday morning so we never really felt as if our lives were in danger. Unless it was from the heat. I understand why so many Dominicans travel with umbrellas. They're not just for the random, sporadic rain falls.

Because this church is at Feed My Sheep, and they have been praying for us, Jason was asked to come up and say a word or two. He was unaware this was going to happen. I'm not sure I've seen him that surprised in a long time.

Container Landing *First bit of real work.*

A lot of talk, looking and walking went into finding a good landing spot for our

PRAISE

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- We are staying safe on these crazy roads no vehicle should be driving on.

- We've met and befriended neighbors both just above us and just below on our road.

- Nathan has made fast friends with the neighbor boys.

- The container arrived safely in port and is on the dock. (We have not opened it yet.)

- Everything at the port went very smoothly even though there was a large, unexpected dock fee.

- We have a location to place our shipping container!

...

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Romans 12:1

shipping container. In the end, it was decided that Feed My Sheep would be its home, at least temporarily.

To make the landing location even accessible, a small portion of a wall had to come down. Since all of Jason's tools are in said container, poor guy had to buy a tool. Sledge hammer work began the next day and ended the following with Jason and two helpers pushing the wall over and getting it cleared.

During this time there's been a decent amount of paperwork going on in regards to customs. The ladies in the office at Feed My Sheep were very helpful during all of this and Hannah made friends with one of the girls there while she was waiting for Jason to be done.

Budding Friendships

Do boy friendships "bud?"

No matter, Jason and I have met our neighbors just down the road, an older couple, and the family right above our rental. That family has two young boys that Nathan quickly made friends with, Goran, 6, and Garvey, 3.



There is a path that leads between our houses and Nathan goes up every day since they were introduced to see if the boys want to play. I'm very thankful.

Random Tidbits

Rain, Lizards and Dragonflies

Some of you may have metal roofs. Do any of you have uninsulated metal roofs? Loud. Deafeningly loud. Of course, that all depends on the rain. I'm so used to insulation though! There isn't any here. Because of that, sounds outside or inside can be heard easily no matter where they originate. This can be sometimes a bit unsettling. Kind of like when the roof starts to make popping noises as the sun hits it in the morning. No alarm clocks needed here.

How about cooking with lizards? No, I'm not cooking lizards. Although, there are enough everywhere I wonder if someone here does. This guy though decided to scrutinize my cooking one morning. All was well until he came further in, onto the doorframe and one of the kids tried to catch him. Thankfully he fell behind the stove and not into my pot on the stove.



There are huge dragonflies here in a gorgeous shade of RED!

Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

PRAYER

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- 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 Tuesday. Pray for discernment please.

- Wisdom regarding our next rental and softness of heart to clearly hear God's voice and what He wants for us.

- Possible first business venture in the form of a donut shop with a fellow Christian from Mahaut Gospel Tabernacle.



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.

- Continued health.