

Groggs in Dominica

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Volume 2 – Issue 11

Happy One Year Domiversary to us!

Still Crazy How Time Flies

Sept. 10, 2021 - Sept. 10, 2022

One year. One year since we boarded a plane, most of us for the first time, and took off on the greatest adventure we've ever had. Talk about a leap of faith with one step of faith following another and another.

There's still really no "normal" to our life here. I don't know if there ever will be and maybe that's a good thing. It sure is keeping us on our toes and making sure we stay (or become more) flexible.

Jason continues doing odd jobs here and there for friends and acquaintances. I think we'll always be meeting people, making new friends and strengthening "old" ones. Just last week he and Gracia picked up a young couple that were hiking the road leading away from the Syndicate Falls area. These tourists were visiting Dominica for a week or so from their home in Martinique (the French island to our south).

As they had nowhere to pitch their tent that night, Jason brought them home and put them up in our backyard. We fed them

supper, supplied our washer, a shower and most importantly, Jesus.

Interestingly enough, we weren't the first Christians on the island to help them out on their visit. In fact, they thought it very "odd" how often they ran into God's people in such a short amount of time.



Needless to say, they felt very at ease with us, especially after Nathan started trying out his French on them and pretty much adopting them. The feelings were so strong, a few tears were actually shed when they left.

Kids' Thoughts

After a Year in Dominica.

Some have stronger thoughts than others (gasp). Here they are.

Hannah: Being here has given me many opportunities to view failing governments and economies, as leaving the States has opened my eyes to the mass ruin of the world government; and to say the least it is depressing. People manipulate others to put them in charge, not because they have proven themselves to be trustworthy but because "there is no one better, pick the lighter of the two evils;" and no one has the

... PRAISE ...

- Our "rented" truck is in working order again! Praise the Lord!

- We are continually meeting new people, being able to speak into their lives, finding some to be brothers or sisters in Christ and others getting seed planted.

- We're into the 4th month of hurricane season and have been blessed with not even a tropical storm!

... PRAYER ...

- For our overseas truck purchase to be expedited. It seems to be in transportation limbo between the lot and the port.

- The "rented" truck is still not without issues, as it's leaking oil and Jason's not sure where some other consistent sounds are coming from.

- We're still praying for no hurricanes to hit Dominica. Three months to go!

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*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
~ Galatians 6:9*

guts to simply say no we don't need a government this big watching over everything we do, and regulating us at the slightest turn, essentially holding up our lives. Furthermore, it implores laziness and enables dependents on something that is not dependable. Additionally, no one else wants to take responsibility, or feels like they have to for more than themselves. This will surely sprawl us into a downward spiral of disaster and collapse. (Glances over at America, "Some sooner than others...") There are so many opportunities here for businesses that could help hundreds. Example: This island has so much water that isn't used, isn't prepared for and is constantly causing land slides and flooding. If ¼ of this island's water could be utilized it could power this whole island. It could also be collected, purified, and sold; my hope would be to places experiencing drought or water shortages. Bananas and many other fruits I have never seen before could also be exported, because otherwise they are going to waste just sitting on trees being food for the birds and bugs. As for the actual nature of the island, it's mostly green. I say mostly because of how many dead trees that are just allowed to become termite hotels; so much so that termites are a known problem here. You can't look at a single rise without a large number of dead trees making up a majority of the view. Well, I've been informed that my mother would like to keep this newsletter to just two pages, so finishing thoughts. The few thunderstorms that we have had the privilege to experience have been glorious with the thunder being the loudest sound I have heard in my life, think four or five trains going over head all at once while blowing

their horns. I am referring to diesel engines of course seeing as steam is pretty much out of use now and I would have no clue what four of those going overhead would sound like, but I digress. Over all it's a lovely island, pretty humid, quite hot with breezes and rivers to counter the heat. Beautiful views, you know Caribbean Island stuff, the parrots are pretty cool. Fav bird so far would have to be the Smooth Billed Ani, makes a pretty cool sound. I like sitting under the waterfall at Syndicate though I feel like I might lose my hearing doing that too much, might be worth it though, feels like aggressive hot tub jets. Anyway, I'm off to assist the two artists in the family trying to do math with sharp objects.

The Lord is not mocked, man will reap what they sow. Au ravoir! ;P

Gracia: The rain is amazing and the views of the sunsets will never get old, the forests are beautiful and wildlife is EVERYWHERE!

Elijah: No matter what you say cats will rule the world. They are superior. But anyway, I do like it down here. It may be humid and sticky, but the sunsets are beautiful and I love watching the clouds. Mosquitos can be annoying but I'm starting to kill more of them. Back in the states if I saw a fly I would try and flick it away or kill it, but down here I am starting to name them. One of the flies I named a while back was Hubert. I was in the truck with dad and he landed on my hand. He flew off again and then I told him to land on my hand again and he did. But after that, despite my warnings, he flew near the window and got swept out into the void... rest in peace Hubert. There are so many lizards, they are all so

cute. The weather is weird down here but not too much different then Logansport's weird weather. My kitten (Mango) sleeps in my sink, he really likes it. He curls over onto his side and sticks his paws up into the air. It's really cute. But there is not a library down here like the ones back in the states. I want a library! I need more books! But I have a cat and I got some new books to read. Unfortunately, I have already read through four of them in roughly two days. Mom says that me slowing down my reading is self-control but I just tell her I can't slow down, it's in my blood to read fast. Hail the cats!



Nathan: Too much rain, mosquitos, sun, and WHY IS THERE NO SNOW? >:-(-

A Ministry Move *Feed My Sheep Update*

I mentioned about being "on call" for Feed My Sheep in the last newsletter. This is really different than how we thought things would be when we moved here. We did start off strong with cleaning, tiling and some cement work, but after that, the projects stopped, even though there's plenty of work to be done.

We know now that our arrival was the beginning of a change in leadership at FMS. Miss Lena has decided to retire, handing the reins over to her nephew, with whom we are friends. The decision has also been made to separate the Mission (FMS) from the church that resides in the

same building. What this looks like is yet to be seen. There's talk of FMS finding a new building or just moving into the back part of the original building. Whatever the case, we believe it a good move, to separate these two entities.

Jason has been involved in the meetings discussing these things and from the sounds of it, he will continue to be an integral part of Feed My Sheep, however it progresses.

This change means that our shipping container must go. Please pray with us about where we can move it to and still have ease of access, preferably without a storage/rent fee involved.

The Slippery Slope *Going the Way of the World*

June saw the first open support for the LGBTQ movement here in Dominica. Jungle Bay Resort hosted a pride dinner, put on by members of the British High Commission. They went on to say it was "an important milestone in our nation's history."

Jungle Bay also recently hosted a meeting designed to make recommendations of CARICOM's (Caribbean Community) Regional Gender Equality Strategy, which is designed to "accelerate the effective implementation of key priority actions for the achievement of gender equality, equity and women's empowerment."

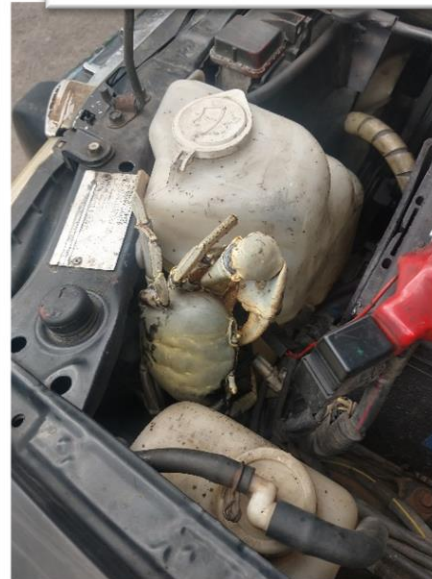
Now that's a word salad!



Nathan, reading the comics that came in our recent barrels.



Hannah, helping Jason with a friend's roof, and, Rudyard Duckling, the sponge-holding duck she just HAD to have. (I'm glad, he makes us all smile.)



Look closely and you can see a hitchhiker in our truck. Jason checks the oil almost daily, but this time he had to remove something instead of add. (It's a crab the size of his head!)

Jesus is King!

Until next time, the *Groggs*



Genip, our new favorite fruit that the locals call Kenip. To Hannah though, it's "fleshy eyeball fruit."

Panorama from our balcony of one of our beautiful sunsets!

