

Groggs in Dominica

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10/01/2022

Volume 2 – Issue 12

The Weather

Waves, Storms & Hurricanes

September was a rather busy season in the Atlantic. We watched several disturbances arise only to disipate quickly. Others kept us (ok, just me) watching longer.

At this point, you should know some terminology, if you don't already. Let's start with the basics that I've learned so far. Tropical Waves turn into Tropical Disturbances then Tropical Storms. After that, if it develops further, you have hurricanes and those rank from 1 through 5.

Here in Dominica, we have only experienced Tropical Waves so far (thank you for your prayers!). Fiona touched our northern shore as a Tropical Disturbance before developing further and heading north. We had a couple hours of very strong winds with driving rain. Hurricane Ian developed in the Caribbean Sea, thus we saw nothing of him.

As pre-Fiona approached the area, we did find out Feed My Sheep is required to open as a hurricane shelter if she were to strengthen into a Storm. At that point, Jason would have been asked to go help there should anyone show up in need of shelter. Thankfully, that didn't happen.

I would have thought Dominicans would be more used to the Tropical Storms and hurricanes, thinking they're just a

part of life here and ride them out. What I heard though, was that after Hurricane Maria (which hit Dominica as a Cat 5 and most of the was demolished) the people are hyper-sensitive to the weather, think PTSD.

While we do have two more months of hurricane season to weather, September was the peak so we're hoping for things to slow down a bit. November 30th is the official end of the season but it seems locals call it off at the end of October.

Where to Go Next?

It's been a good year...

But it's time to move on. The owner of our house has finally decided to return. We were blessed to be in this house in the first place and then to have an extension of 6 months was like icing on the cake.

As of right now, we've been given permission to stay through the end of January. I would like to be out by the end of December though so there's a buffer to get things fixed. Having had a family of 6 living here for a year...well, there are things that need repaired.

I have created a short list of places to look into, have made contact with a realtor and visited one rental so far (a no-go). We really like where we're at and will be sad to leave the area (Nathan has a good friend only a couple doors down) but we are trying to

... PRAISE ...

- We made it safely through the 4th month of hurricane season and have been blessed with not even a Tropical Storm!

- Friends going off-island are allowing us to borrow their car while they're gone (about 1 month).

- Having people to call when our truck broke, knowing they would drop what they were doing for us, made me realize just how blessed we are. God is good, all the time!

... PRAYER ...

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

- Pray we know when to quit putting money into the local truck. Also, that it wouldn't need much more put into it, that it would hold on until our purchased truck gets here and we can get it running again before our friends return for their car.

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I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things. ~ Isa. 45: 6b-7

make sure we stay open to what God wants. Being patient in this area is definitely not my strong-suit.

Transport

What a struggle it's been.

If you'll remember the Praise in our last newsletter regarding our "rented" truck being in working order again...you can forget it. While it was running for most of September, it is running well no more. This past week the radiator fan came off its post, flew into the radiator, put a hole in it causing fluid to leak out, which raised the engine temp to unhealthy levels.

Thankfully, there was a gas station close by where we parked and called a friend for a ride home. The following day, another friend took Jason back to the truck with plenty of water and he nursed it back home, only pulling over four times to refill the radiator so it wouldn't overheat.

Some ask if all this trouble is worth it. We say yes, since we really have no other option. Jason can't ride the bus with the tools he needs for his odd jobs. Normal buses don't run on Sundays for church transport and if we want to all go somewhere, getting the 6 of us on the same bus is iffy since they're normally close to capacity.

(If any would like to donate toward the repairs of this truck, please get with Jason. Looks to be about \$500)

That brings me to the truck we've purchased from BeForward, a company that is widely used by the Caribbean people to bring in vehicles. The one we chose is located in Japan. Japan is still in full Covid protocols; thus, they have a lack of man-power and can't seem to get our truck to the

dock for loading. On top of that, they were hit by two typhoons (the North Pacific name for hurricanes) this season. We were told it would be 6 to 9 weeks before the truck would get here and we're at week ten now.

On the bright side, God has allowed us the ability to borrow a car from some new friends that left today for a month back in the States.

Into the Pit

Downward we go.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned the direction Dominica was traveling in regards to the LGBTQ community. This past week we read an article saying "the Dominica High Court accepts challenge to sodomy laws." (See link in comments on Gab or body of email.)

"The hearing comes months after the same court decriminalized same-sex *intimacy* in neighboring St. Kitts & Nevis and Antigua & Barbuda." That being said, we have no doubt Dominica's law will be overturned. As is, the law is not being enforced.

After reading the news article, Jason sent a message to the President of the Dominican Evangelical Churches, asking him if they were going to have a meeting to address the upcoming change to the sodomy law. The response he received basically said the he was not concerned and it doesn't need to be addressed yet. Jason said this will affect the church the same way Covid did. They are not prepared.

At this point, I must confess to feeling a bit defeated and wondering how we can make a difference. I am reminded though, that the "law" saved no one. It was

only there to show us sin and our need of a Savior. So, we continue to talk to those God brings into our lives, sharing the Gospel, calling for repentance and giving encouragement.

On a side note, while the sodomy laws aren't being enforced, other ridiculous laws are. For instance, Jason tried to enter a government building a while back in one of his sleeveless shirts. He was denied entry because his shoulders were "uncovered," going against the building's dress code.

The End Times

And the exegesis of Revelation.

The longer we're here, the more we seem to be confronted with different theologies, beliefs, practices, etc. Some are so far off; we know they're not of God. Some cause us to dig deeper into God's Word and we come back more firmly planted than when we went in. Others have given us pause, leading to deeper research, prayer and some changes.

This teaching, that has caused us to rethink "everything" we've been taught growing up, has been in regards to "the End Times" and the book of Revelation. If you're interested to know what we've been learning, pick up a copy of Douglas Wilson's book, *When the Man Comes Around: A Commentary on the Book of Revelation*.

Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

I would be remiss at this point, if I didn't mention Hannah is now 18.

I certainly don't feel old enough for that to be possible. 😊