

Groggs in Dominica

Follow us: Gab.com/JasonJenn

11/03/2022

Volume 2 – Issue 13

Happy Independence! *1978-present, 44 Years*

Today, November 3rd, Dominica is celebrating 44 years of independence. She's such a young Nation!

Unlike our July 4th celebrations, Dominica starts celebrating in October, slowly ramping up to the weekend before Nov. 3rd. There's a Creole Music Festival that weekend which brings in Diaspora from all over the world and visitors from other Caribbean islands. There are parades, parties and venues across the island. The result being litter everywhere. Dominica doesn't seem to believe in public trash cans, only in paying trash pick-up crews after the events.



For the schools, the Friday before the 3rd is Creole Day, in which the kids get to wear native dress (Wob Dwiwèt) instead of their uniforms. Some churches also do special

services on the Sunday before. The one we're attending chose to do the whole service in Creole. Needless to say, since none of us speak Creole (or Kwéyòl), and there wasn't going to be a translator, we did church at home.

The Church on the Hill *Mahaut Revival Baptist*

Since I'm speaking of churches, this is the one we're currently attending. It's only about five minutes from home, up a super steep hill, with a gorgeous view!

Our first visit was back on Sept. 4th. The next Sunday we invited the Pastor and his family over for lunch. Pastor Felix and his wife have one grown son and two daughters the ages of our oldest two.

Our second time there, the church started doing Sunday School again and they have the classes divided by age for the kids. This is something we've seen in only one other church visit. Either there isn't Sunday School or everyone sits all together for it.

This church is decently friendly. Nathan is making new friends almost every Sunday (nothing new there). I've decided to introduce myself to a different lady each Sunday (during Sunday School seems easiest) since they don't exactly introduce themselves, although they'll smile easily enough and ask how you're doing.

Last month we experienced our first baptism. After a short service,

... PRAISE ...

- For our gracious friend and brother in Christ, Brian, in the UK, that hunted down parts for our "rental" truck and had them shipped to us!

- The knowledge Jason has been gaining in fixing the vehicles in our care.

... PRAYER ...

- Our overseas truck is at BeForward, the company in Japan we ordered it from. Based on the current shipping schedule, it looks like it won't arrive until sometime next year.

- For someone(s) to help out with the expense for the parts, shipping and duties to fix our "rental" truck. The cost was \$750. We are solely relying on local income.

- CEF to be blessed by many volunteers and resources so they can reach more kids for Christ.

- A place to live, come January, that is still close to, if not IN, Belfast. We deeply desire to stay close to our friend Deborah (who feels more like family now) and Nathan's good friend, Raeshaun. Plus, the church we've recently started attending is only a couple minutes away.

we all drove to an area by the Caribbean Sea and walked to the shore. This beach wasn't sand, but more like river rock, lots of round, smooth rocks. Most people were clustered around whoever thought to bring an umbrella, songs were sung and then the young lady was baptized.



CEF of Dominica *Child Evangelism Fellowship*

A couple months ago, we found out there was a chapter of CEF down here. I think most of you are aware of who they are. For those who aren't, you can check them out here www.cefonline.com.

For us, this was a very pleasant surprise and we sought them out right away for a meeting. CEF Dominica was started in 2019 only to be "shut down" for Covid. They're just now getting going again and only have three volunteers. After formal training at the beginning of the new year, Lord willing they'll have six more volunteers, us!

So far, Jason and I sat in on a Good News Club in the Massacre (pronounced Mass-ack) Government School and the

following week he took Gracia to help the leaders hold the Bible verse and song lyrics. This is probably something we'll keep doing until we get trained.



The Massacre school has a total of 200 kids. The two CEF volunteers normally split, each getting 50 kids and the next week, they get the other 100 kids, in two groups. Soon, they plan on starting a Club in the Mahaut (Ma-hoe) school, which is where we live. Lord willing (and depending on where we move to) we hope to take over the Clubs in both these schools.

In December, CEF is putting on a Christmas event and so far, 20 schools have asked them to do the event! With the lack of volunteers, they're getting in contact with the local churches, asking for snacks and church members to take a one day training so they can help lead this event. We've already volunteered to help with this as well.

Christ in the Schools *He's still welcome here.*

Being in a government school, listening to the Gospel being taught pretty much brought tears to my eyes. I don't think the States will ever fully realize what we lost when we allowed Jesus to be kicked out of our schools.

From what we're learning, each school has multiple extra

curricular activities the kids can sign up for. Bible Club is one of them. It seems many of these can't operate though because they don't have someone willing to lead it. Thankfully this doesn't include the Bible club at the Dominica State College. Last week, Jason contacted this Club and they've already included him in an online meeting. Before the end of the year, this club, Christian Fellowship, will be hosting a debate on the LGBTQ agenda.

What Else We're Up To *Some of this and that...*

At the market in Roseau this past Saturday, Jason, Nathan and myself inadvertently got to meet the Prime Minister. He was there for Market Day with a Difference, walking around talking with everyone. We had actually tried to get out of the way and ended up right in his path. He shook all of our hands, asking if we were here for festival, where we were from, etc. He's really tall and looked very tired.

Hannah went with our friend Deborah to a 60's dance, put on by the Council on Aging and then a couple weeks later, they went on a day trip to the north of the island and visited a chocolate "factory." It's really just the



man's house with a couple rooms dedicated to chocolate making. It's all from the local cacao beans.

Jason and Nathan helped out at Feed My Sheep, laying cement on their parking lot/driveway area. Most of the time, for small jobs, Dominicans don't use cement mixers. They put all their ingredients in a pile on the ground and start mixing with shovels. Notice the pile in the background of this pic.



October 20th, the Prime Minister finally removed all mask mandates except for food service workers. Our first trip to the grocery store felt so odd without a mask and yet very freeing. Overall, it seemed as if everyone was friendlier too.

Last Sunday, the one we stayed home from Creole Day, we had two Dominican Jehovah's Witnesses come to our door. Ok, actually they came to our gate. Since "everyone" is connected via WhatsApp down here, the conversations are still going on, a week later, via that app. It's been pretty interesting learning about the crazy things JW believe.

Monday, we were honored to take a meal to a friend that just had a baby. She had a C-section that had complications so was in the hospital extra long. Getting to her house was quite the ordeal. She lives up a walk-way with no vehicular access and in a village we haven't really explored. We must have looked lost because at least 4 people "yelled" as we

passed. We finally stopped, thinking we might be going the wrong direction on a one way street. No, we weren't, these two guys just wanted to "help the white people." AKA, they wanted money. If you let anyone off the street help you, they will expect payment. Even if they didn't actually help the way you needed.

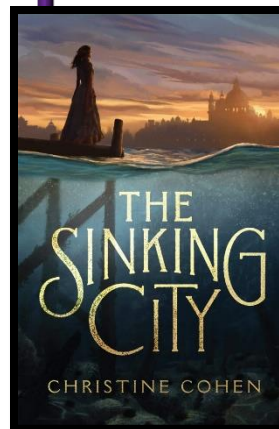
Jason continues to have odd jobs that help pay the bills, although they've slowed way down here recently. The pic below is a railing he built out of local wood for some friends of ours.



Jesus is King!

Until next time,
the *Groggs*

Book Suggestion



The Sinking City

By Christine Cohen

"Venice is a carnival of opposites, and Liona Carvatti thinks she understands it all: canal and

palace, magician and merchant, plague and pantomime. As a patrician's daughter, Liona enjoys the sparkling life of a noble family—although she would prefer to be tending to her flowers than practicing violin or standing around in a ball gown. But what Liona fails to realize is that Venice is a city of stone in a world of water. And ruling the dark waters are the Seleni—ageless, cold, and calculating.

When she loses everything she relies on, Liona must set a new course that will shake the foundations of Venice itself."

Young Adult, Fantasy, Fiction

