

# Groggs in Dominica

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1/01/2022

Volume 2 – Issue 1

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### *A Time to Work*

#### *And a Time to Rest*

We've been super busy ever since moving into our new rental. The do-list here is rather long. A couple days ago Jason had a setback though since he decided to take some ibuprofen with grapefruit juice. After about two days of sporadic abdominal pain, he was set to go to the clinic the next morning. That was New Year's Eve Day and thankfully, he had no issues all day and today he's still doing well. We're VERY thankful. Those couple days were filled with "trying" NOT to work. It's a difficult thing for Jason to be still for a full day, let alone a couple. But that's what was needed.

### *A New Year*

#### *Still learning new things.*

Since we've been here, I started a list of things I've been learning, either from being told or simply by observation. I think the new year a good time to share those with you, so here goes!

- Always acknowledge everyone you pass with "Good Day" or an equivalent.
- Most people are very friendly.

- Don't give handouts of money, ever. It'll go to the drink.
- Create jobs so people can earn some food if you have extra or buy them a meal for their effort.
- Anyone offering to help you, with anything, will expect to be paid.
- Buying outside of a store (markets & roadside stands) you can expect to get charged more as a foreigner unless you know the cost ahead of time.
- All stores require the wearing of a mask and sanitizing of hands.
- Males do relieve themselves along the side of the road.
- PDA (public display of affection) is not a thing here. There's no holding of hands, hugs or kisses between the genders.
- Women's hairstyles, length included, can change daily. There's a whole wall in one of the stores dedicated to this.
- Most Dominicans run to the store before every meal to prep.
- Dominicans actually don't run. They walk and most of the time, they're in no hurry.

### ... PRAISE ...

- We are slowly settling into our new place. We're actually IN our new place!
- Jason has successfully completed 2 jobs here, and been paid.
- Jenn's parents blessed us with finances for a microwave and that purchase was entered into a drawing. We won! A \$150EC voucher was soon in our possession along with a bottle of wine and trinket goodies from the store.
- Our Christmas barrels should be here this week. Yes, late, but not lost! Thank you to those that helped!!!

### ... PRAYER ...

- We start house hunting, again, this month. Six months is going to fly by.
- Our own vehicle for work projects and family adventures.
- A local bank account
- A source (or sources) of income that still allows us to freely minister to Feed My Sheep and those around us.
- Wisdom & funds for a small trades "school" Jason wants to start in the back of our rental property.

- Riding in truck beds is very common. Most actually seem to prefer to stand behind the cab or sit on the edge of the bed with a leg over.

- I've only seen 2 people that actually used seatbelts and helmets aren't worn on scooters or motorcycles. The motorcycles are small and the scooters large.

- Most any form of transportation seems allowed, from rust buckets to four wheelers.

- Vehicle horn honks is a language all by itself.

- There are buses (16-seater vans) for almost every area of the island and sometimes just for a single road if it's long enough. The gov't set price is 2.50 per adult and 1.25 for kids, no matter the distance. Buses also require masks.

- Tile floors are unforgiving with breakable dishes.

- Tap water will be cloudy after a hard rain. Otherwise, the water here is drinkable.

- Bread is considered a complete meal. Each loaf is called a Mastiff and they are sold in bags of 3 from stores, roadsides or cars driving along if you know where to look. I have been on the bus when the driver stopped by a car going the opposite direction and he bought bread from the occupants.

- Several types of milk, if unopened, don't have to be fridged.

- Anything dug up from the ground that is edible is called a "provision," except potatoes.

Plantains, though grown on trees, are called a provision.

- Any fruit tree along the side of the road (even in someone's yard) can be picked from. Take only what you can eat.

- Ants are everywhere and can get into anything. You will eat some.

- Ovens are called "cookers" and shopping carts "buggies."

- Cats, dogs and chickens are in abundance and roam freely. Goats are also prevalent but are tied up. The dogs all act abused.

- Humidity is very high during the wet season (June-February). You will sweat, even if standing still.

- Get clothes off the line before they draw evening damp. A back-up clothes line under cover is a must since you never know when a shower will start. Radar is worthless.

- Random power outages are a thing, sometimes for a whole day.

- The date is written day/month/year.

### *Tidbits*

#### *New Friends & Pets*

That's a bit misleading, since we still don't have any pets other than the chickens that were present when we moved in. Jason talks to them like they are his pets though.

We had prematurely told Eliyah she could have kittens here. Once we moved in though, we realized there are too many

windows without screens and since we leave all three doors open all day, that also would be an issue. We could put chicken wire on the burglar bar doors but the kitchen's won't close if the main door is open. She's handling it pretty well and I'm proud of her.

One of the families we befriended has a 15-year-old son, Jeremiah. His parents are divorced and he's been really struggling with life so Jason has taken him under his wing. For the past couple weeks, our place has been his second home.

Eliyah has befriended a girl her age, Layla. She is learning how to knit (using pencils) and has spent a couple days with us over Christmas break. She said she was thankful for our family.

School here will be online again this coming semester (Omicron scare). That means most kids won't be learning what they should since they don't have access to internet and if they do, they don't pay attention while "in class." They're playing games on their school tablets that aren't monitored. It's a sad state.

### *Jesus is King!*

Until next time,  
the *Groggs*

