

# Groggs in Dominica

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## God is GOOD!

*All the Time!*

We have some wonderful news to share with you all! After showing Sandy (our landlady) the receipt for our last month's rent, she suddenly started talking about possibly not coming back in June. Communication not being everyone's strongsuit, we had a back and forth to make sure we knew what she was talking about.

Our prayers, and yours have been answered (for the short term). Sandy changed her plans and is staying in Holland until January! We have another six months from June. Talk about a care being lifted. We had been looking for rentals, looking at land, asking realtors and telling our friends to keep their eyes open. A couple places we thought were possible, ended up not being. God knew. He always does. 😊

## Answered Prayer?

*Three in One...*

So many of you have been praying for us in regards to income, a vehicle and a more permanent place to live. While we can't say much yet, it appears God is going to work out all three of these in one swoop. We would really appreciate your prayers for discernment, to make sure that

what we're taking as His plan, really is.

## A Covid Story

*Man's failed Wisdom*

This doesn't have a good ending, be forewarned. I share it solely so you can see how deeply fear has been entrenched here. This is the story, as told to us by our friend Deborah.

There was a drowning death the other week here (much longer now as I'm telling it very late). Most Dominicans can't swim but they like to get in the shallow water and they bath in the rivers. There was a man in the water (somewhere) with his friends and others nearby. A foreign couple walked past and noticed the man was struggling. They called to the other people, "he's drowning! Are you going to help him?" No one could swim so the foreigner went in and got him. Once on the shore, the man wasn't breathing so the foreigner tried to start CPR. The people wouldn't let him, pushing him back, away, yelling "No! Covid! Covid!" The foreigner's wife yelled back "My husband knows CPR! He can save him!" The people were more scared of Covid and the man died. Lies lead to death. friend Deborah.

The people here have been led to believe that foreigners bring covid. They'll leave their masks down around each other, but as

## ... PRAISE ...

- Jason's Basic Carpentry class finished their second project. A shelving unit.



- We get to stay in our rental now until January! Woot!

- Jason's been consistently being offered odd jobs helping us to pay bills and buy groceries.

## ... PRAYER ...

- Three of us are treating ringworm currently and two of us are now enduring through chigger bites.

- Our own vehicle for work projects and family adventures.

- Discernment regarding best timing for family to come visit.

- Hurricane season starts in June so we are praying, once again, for no hurricanes to hit Dominica, but also wise preparedness on our part.

- Our Work Permit applications have made no progress.

soon as foreigners come near, the masks go up. They see us as diseased, part of the fear propaganda. It's just as bad in the church as out.

## Tidbits

*from the Caribbean*

- Marriage announcements are made before the whole church, before the morning sermon. They are made several weeks in advance, stating that if anyone has a reason these two should not get married, they have until (said date) and after that, no one is allowed to speak on the matter. This announcement is made every Sunday until the date mentioned.

- Our last two Sundays at Olivet Baptist Church in Portsmouth, we took Kaci with us. On Easter, our last Sunday there, we also took her boyfriend, Narren. We had a full truck.



- After having a rental pick up for two months, it finally got returned. We lasted less than a week though before renting another vehicle. This one is a two wheel drive...not the best idea for what we've been doing.

- Pick ups are called vans down here. Work trucks are called trucks. Mini vans are called buses, which almost makes

sense since they're used as buses.

- We visited Free Up Farm in Syndicate a couple weeks ago. It's designed as an educational template for permaculture and organic farming, all off-grid.



- Dominicans can't pronounce "th." They either will say it as a "D" or "F" sound. For instance, the phrase "Don't make the thing take me," apparently something Dominican mothers say to their children when they feel themselves losing their tempers, would be pronounced "Don't make da fing take me."

- Jason (and whoever wants to go with him) has been working on a "pool" in the middle of the Layou River where there are many rocks between a split in the river.

- We laugh off tales of witches back home but here, it's very real. We've heard firsthand stories of people seeing witches fly with fire behind them and witch fights aren't uncommon. No, we haven't see any of this personally.

- We had supper with a local school teacher a while back and the tales she had to tell of the young boys here were shocking. In Mahaut alone, there is a gang of 9 and 10 year olds that run the streets. If they invite

you but you don't go or can't go, then you become the brunt of their aggression. Their teen age leader once overdosed on cocaine and when he was released, his gang hailed him a hero. The young boy, Shivani, that hangs out at Feed My Sheep, has been the brunt of them many times. He's been locked in the trunk of a junk car along the side of the road and tossed into a dumpster by this gang.

- We thought homosexuality might not be in Dominica since we'd read that "Consensual same-sex conduct is illegal, and no laws prohibit discrimination against a person on the basis of sexual orientation." We were informed, from that same school teacher, that it's a growing thing.

- A parent let us know she received an email informing her that equality and sex education will now be taught in the public schools here.

- Yesterday, we visited Syndicate Falls. (You can see

more pics on Gab.) The sound of water gurgling over rocks and rushing over falls is something I immensely enjoy. On our drive home, we finally had our first snake



sighting, even if it was roadkill.

*Jesus is King!*

Until next time,  
the *Groggs*