

# Groggs in Dominica

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## *Be Still and Know That I am God.*

The waiting seems to never end. I realize waiting is a part of life but down here it seems much more pronounced, in more areas than one.

November 7<sup>th</sup> is coming ever nearer. This is Jason's trial date for the Customs' charges. October 4<sup>th</sup> will be five months we've been waiting with one more month to go. As the date approaches, I find myself getting restless. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*

Water, something we never lacked in the States. In the developing country of Dominica, it's a whole different story. Every time there is a sustained downpour, the water gets shut off by the government. They say this is so their inlets don't get clogged or damaged with debris. We've been without water for up to 12 hours before. I'm thankful for containers to store extra water in.



In addition to water loss, Dominica is now experiencing power loss, due to corruption,

severe mismanagement, and lack of maintenance.

DOMLEC (Dominica Electricity Services Ltd.) started "rolling blackouts" months ago, without telling anyone. They would apologize to the affected locations after power was restored, always with some generic excuse.

There was finally enough public outcry that DOMLEC officials started talking. On the surface, the diesel generation units are very old and failing. The hydro generation units are not able to help much because Fresh Water Lake is the lowest it has been in years due to lack of rain.

These outages are now labeled as a Capacity Management Program and outage locations with times are listed daily (all subject to change written in small print). The longest we've been out in one stretch is 7.5 hours. We now leave water bottles in the freezer that we can move down to the fridge if needed.

Many people have been losing appliances as they "explode" or "burn up" when the power comes back on. We've taken to turning all our outlets off when the power goes to protect the appliances.

The kids are getting much better in the waiting. I will say, that waiting for water has been way easier for them than waiting for the power to come back. Phones and laptops are a big part of life, you know, and staying out of the fridge is VERY difficult!

## *Settling In People, Friends, and a Table*

A couple of weeks ago we brought Nathan's friend Raeshaun

## ... PRAISE ...

- Safe travels through all the dog care. The dogs stayed healthy, too. 😊
- All of the kids' curriculum has been found! I think we're finally back on track.
- Hurricanes have been steering clear of the Eastern Caribbean islands, so far.

## ... PRAYER ...

- Continued safety during peak hurricane season
- Financial needs
- Jason's work permit
- Favor with Customs
- Truth and Justice to be had

to our neighborhood for an afternoon. They rode bikes around until they were dripping sweat then continued to play in the street. The day ended with both boys traveling with Jason to help care for the dogs. Nathan wishes Raeshaun lived closer. I do too.

On the bright side, since Nathan has been riding his bike around more, he has made friends with a 10-year-old boy only a couple of streets up. Nathan still plays with Pastor Steve's daughter and sometimes the other two girls who are closer by, but I'm thankful he's finally found a boy to talk to.

We've now walked to three churches in the Layou/St. Joe area and for the time, we've settled on one. Last Sunday the pastor allowed us to sing a Psalm that we'd been practicing for a couple weeks. The kids like this rendition of Psalm 4 and we hope to teach the whole church (all 20 or so of them) how to sing it.

Even though we've been to this church ??? times, until today, I hadn't learned the names of any of the women. They have a meet and greet time but they sing a "meet and greet" song while walking around shaking hands.

As we've been slowly bringing our items out of storage (not our shipping container), we were finally able to bring back the big table Jason made. It's now out back, on the upper "deck."



We eat most dinners out there while viewing World Watch. It's so much better than trying to eat squeezed around the little "card table" Jason had also made. The big table has given the kids much-needed space to spread out and do homework (when it's not in the sun).

Having the table back, which made it through the move and storage almost unscathed, has once again given us the possibility of hosting others. Granted, we'll need to wait until we can afford more groceries but I know God will provide.

## Local Nature

*Alive and .... Once Was*

For several months now, a dear friend from Deliverance Baptist

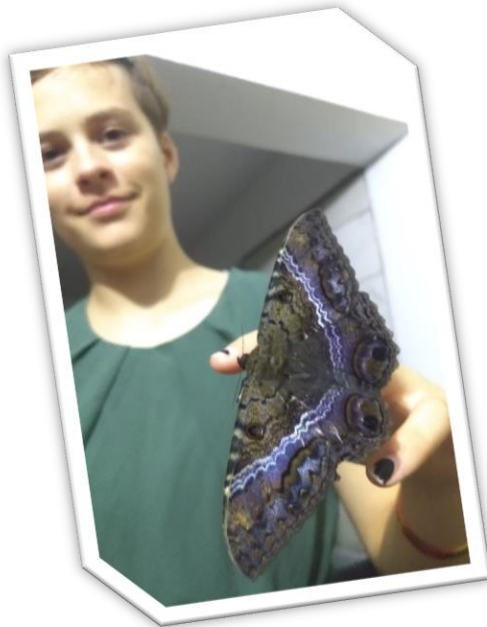
asked us to help her put together some natural shakers. She loves music and her heart is for the kids in the church to feel a part of the worship. She hands them shac shacs (aka shakers) and tambourines each Sunday.

The shac shacs are made from the dried-out fruit of the Calabash tree. The rattle part is dried seeds of the Sugar Apple, Sweetsop, and Tamarind.



On a whim, I decided to try my wood carving "skills" on one of them.

The other day Hannah (who, by the way, turned 19 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of last month) spotted a rather large moth on the front stoop late in the evening. She called to Gracia, our resident bug catcher. It was gorgeous! After some research, we believe it to be a female Black Witch Moth.



Due to a power outage, we had a very late supper one evening, which enabled us to be aware of the rising of the moon over the mountains to our East.

It was one day past a full moon, and I think because of the time of year, the moon right now appears huge! At first, the beginning of its rise reminded me of the glow over a city. Since I knew there was no city that large over there, my next thought was the glow of a volcanic

eruption as the color was very orange. Again, we knew that wasn't the case and finally, my brain wrapped around that I was seeing the moon rise!

Jason, Gracia, and I stayed out back watching the huge glowing orb rise above the mountain in such grandeur it took our breath away. How awesome it is to see the spoken Word of creation still being presented to us day in and day out.

## Jesus is King!

Until next time,  
the *Groggs*

P.S. Jason would like to encourage everyone to watch the sermon, The Colonies of Heaven, from Doug Wilson. It will help you understand what keeps us going here when so many think we should quit and go home.



The Colonies of Heaven (Philippians #13) | Douglas Wilson

*You can find the YouTube link in the body of this email (or the first comment if reading this on GAB).*