

Groggs in Dominica

Follow us: Gab.com/JasonJenn

07/05/2023

Volume 3 – Issue 7

Empty Nest Syndrome I'm Not Looking Forward to it.

It's one thing to have a kid or two gone for a while at camp or college. It's quite another to have all your children gone for a month or more, almost all at one time. They should all be here with me, where they belong.

However, I must remember these children are only on loan to me. They belong to God. And while this isn't what I would have planned, it is what He has ordained and I must try to not only be content but thankful and rejoicing.



I do look forward to enjoying some one-on-one time with Jason as these past several months have caused some marital tension, emotional distress, and issues that need to be worked through.

It will be good for us to reconnect and find things to do together that we both enjoy, as the time with kids at home is rapidly flying by. It's hard to believe that our

children are 12, 15, 17, and almost 19.

Today is only day two of the girls being gone and I had to create myself a to-do list to keep my brain occupied. So far, I've started going room to room, cleaning each floor tile with a washcloth and straight blade.

By the way, before they left, the girls were given the opportunity to help out at a friend's shop on the main road in Mahaut.

This started while we were still living in Belfast, but continued after we moved to the Layou area. This was my first opportunity here to loosen the apron strings and give the girls some independence.

While in Belfast, they could just walk to the shop, but once we moved, they had to catch a bus there and back again. The experience was good for all involved and I'm thankful for it.

What Man Meant for Evil God is Showing us His Good.

I know I listed "But God" in the last newsletter, as I saw how He was taking care of us within each different situation.

Here are more instances where I have seen Him at work:

We became "friends" with several police officers and prison guards during these events. On one of our trips to town with the girls, we ran into at least 2 officers on the streets. They both made eye contact with us, smiling and waving as we passed.

Two different times while waiting in the courtroom during hearings, two female officers we'd interacted with (there for other reasons), also smiled readily at us.

... PRAISE ...

- Hannah, Gracia & Elijah made it safely to the States!

- Family & friends that are continuing to help in whatever physical & financial ways they can.

- Sister Pam, an older, wiser, Godly woman who has taken it upon herself to encourage me almost daily.

- Sister Melanie, who wishes me a good morning and good night every day and sends me her prayers for me and my family.

... PRAYER ...

- Continued safety and comfort for our kids as they are away from us.

- Clarity and wisdom for our lawyer. Health for Miss Jilane as she is currently sick.

- Confusion and disorganization for the prosecution.

- Truth and Justice to be had.

- Repentance from Sandra, Deborah & Lena.

- Financial needs.

- Jason's work permit

- Safety during hurricane season.

One came over, asking how the girls were doing. She had been at the Grandbay Jail. She even returned later to tell me that another officer from Grandbay sent her greetings after being told we were there.

While Jason and I were at a bus stop near home, one of the main officers from the first case saw us and pulled over to say hi to Jason, asking how he was. He then gave us a ride so we didn't have to wait on a bus. (He wasn't on duty.)

Before Jason was released on bail, a Remand (from Venezuela) gave him his sister's number, asking him to make contact for him. Upon sending a chat to her using Google translate, she told Jason, through tears, that she'd been praying for months for a man of God to be able to reach her brother.

With the rented truck for the girls' departure, we were able to visit Deliverance Baptist the Sunday before they flew out. We were greeted very warmly. A couple of people had tears in their eyes, they'd been praying so fervently for us. We were welcomed, with applause, from the pulpit before and after the service. This church has been a great source of encouragement for us.

In Other News

A Matter Before the Court

Customs finally made it to the shed in Belfast where many of Jason's items had been locked under their seal. Jason was the first one there, not surprising.

Since neither Sandra nor anyone from Feed My Sheep showed up at the shed, Jason's lawyers sent him home and they both stayed while the 7 Custom's officers went through the shed, item by item, taking it all back to their location.

Just as the June 8th court hearing was a non-event, so was the July 4th court hearing. The Dominican court system certainly takes its

time when it chooses to. July 13th is the next court date. The Magistrate will tell us her decision regarding joining the lower charges together (I'm not sure what's going on with the higher charges) and if both sides are ready, we might see the start of the first trial – but I doubt it.

The higher charges, the indictable ones, can only be heard in High Court. A separate hearing is required for those. Nothing we've done so far has even touched them.

Life in the Valley

Lessons in Being Content

I wonder how long it took Paul to learn the secret of being content in any and every situation. I know he had more situations than I and certainly life-threatening ones, which I have not. Yet I still find myself struggling to be content.

I can see God moving and working in our situation. I can see His hand providing. I am slowly learning how to turn away from discontent by counting my blessings, for they are many.

Nevertheless, it is hard to go from the mountain top to the depth of the valley, to not really see any progress up but just one valley after another. I must learn that valleys are beautiful too though, in their own way.

It is in the valleys where we really see how much God loves us. It's also here where we are sanctified in the most meaningful ways and in areas that may never have come to light had we not been in the valley.

Search me, God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

~ Ps. 139:23-24

Having lived in relative ease all my life, having to depend on others the last several months has been humbling, to say the least. Depending on the benevolence of family and friends to pay bills and buy food is something none of us has ever had to experience.

While I see the areas where there seems to be no way, Jason sees all the areas where God can show Himself mighty to us and those who are watching. I am glad God chose fit to make me Jason's helper. He knew I would need him. I pray the Lord continues to teach me what I need to know to be the kind of helpmate Jason needs.

Jesus is King!

Until next time,

the *Groggs*

Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same The LORD's name is to be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations, And his glory above the heavens. ~ Psalm 13: 1-4

