

# Groggs in Dominica

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## Catch Up Time!

July 2023

Life slowed down for us with no kids here and seemingly no visible ministry opportunities. However, life didn't end, so here's a bit of what went on in July.

Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>, we heard Jason's name yelled from an approaching vehicle while we were in town. It was the Superintendent of the prison! He had a huge smile on his face, fist-bumped Jason, and asked how he was doing.

Along those same lines, a couple days later we ran into two female prison guards while in town and each one greeted us warmly with smiles and either a hug or fist bump.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> we were back in court to hear Magistrate Pearl's decision. She did decide to have all the lower charges combined. This was the court's prerogative. This was also when I wasn't initially allowed in. In the email update from that day, I said I'd give you the full story, so, keep reading! To God be the glory!

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, I initially wasn't allowed in court. This was because I was wearing capris (aka short pants). This is not acceptable attire even though they're the very same capris I wore each time to court when I was on remand.

Anyway, Jason came back outside to sit with me until his name was called. While I had tears running down my face, he suggested I walk to a store to look for a wrap or skirt. As I started walking and praying, I saw a store with clothes on the door that was only one block away. I went in,

found a long black skirt (with red designs) hanging on the wall, was offered assistance, and when we held it up to my waist, the woman and I deemed it would fit. I paid the \$25EC (\$9.50US) and they let me change in a "closet," giving me a bag for my capris as I walked out the door.

Jason was still waiting outside when I returned, however, he wasn't alone. Mr. Prevost (one of our lawyers) had shown up while I was shopping. You'll remember from an email update that Customs had called him, saying they now wanted to settle and needed to meet with Jason and his representation before Friday.

Well, right around that time Customs went on strike so the meeting never took place. I don't know when they returned to work since that bit of info didn't make the news and we had to find out by asking around.

A day or so ago, Jason asked Mr. Prevost to contact Customs and see where things stand and he said he would. I honestly think Customs has forgotten about us, if only temporarily. Once again, we find ourselves waiting. God's timing and His plan are perfect.

The week of July 17<sup>th</sup> found Hannah, Gracia, and Eliyah flying out to Idaho for the Called Conference. They had an amazing time and you can find a note from each of them at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who gave and prayed! (Picture: *Afternoon of the Semi-Formal*)

A couple of days before picking up Nathan and Aunt Sara at the airport, Jason and I were treated to lunch at our

## ... PRAISE ...

- Safe travels for Hannah, Gracia and Eliyah to Idaho and back.
- Safe travels for Nathan and Aunt Sara as she returned him to Dominica.
- Safe travels for Aunt Sara back to the States
- God is providing for our finances.

## ... PRAYER ...

- Safe travels without delays for the girls Dominica return, August 22nd
- Financial needs
- Jason's work permit
- Safety during peak hurricane season
- Truth and Justice to be had
- Repentance from Sandra, Deborah & Lena



favorite café. The owner has been a great encouragement to us along this rough road and had been wanting to make a nice meal for us after Jason got out on bail. We told her we'd like to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Aug 9<sup>th</sup>) before Nathan got home and she was all for it!



## *A Couple More Weeks*

### *August 2023 – First half*

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nathan and Aunt Sara arrived at the Douglas-Charles airport right on time. I knew Nathan had grown but I wasn't ready for how much!

We had a great day and a half together, trying to show Aunt Sara as much of Dominica as possible in such a short span. Our time snorkeling was the best we've had yet. We saw two really large schools of different-sized fish, a spiny sea urchin, multiple random tropical fish, two flat sandfish eating what a box crab was stirring up, a sea star larger than Jason's hand, and a small group of Reef Squid! It was absolutely amazing and I'm so thankful to our Father for letting us all and especially Sara, see such variety.

After Sara flew out (which was fraught with airline issues), we've been working on getting Nathan back into some school and structuring a routine. He has taken up chicken chasing again, is refreshing his chicken calls, and learning goat bleats now. There are about 4 goats in the immediate area. We had a neighbor ask if we had a baby

goat! Jason said yes and that its name was Nathan. He's also started mimicking the conch shell sound the guys in the fish truck make. They blow through it as they drive around the villages selling their fish. Nathan can make a pretty good imitation of it while blowing through a bent PVC pipe he found.

For the last two weeks, we've been watching our friends' dogs. Unfortunately, the wife had an accident with her dirt bike and seriously injured her knee. They went off-island for medical help and we stepped up in whatever way we could.

It's pretty fun since they have two parent dogs and their four puppies. Nathan has really



enjoyed it, especially since the dad dog wasn't taking to Jason or me but he took right away to Nathan and even started following him around.



## *Called Conference*

### *Notes from the Girls*

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who prayed for this trip, not only for us but for everyone involved in this incredible event. It meant a lot to know that many people took time out of their day to ask God for blessings on our travels.

To be given an opportunity like that was amazing, and if I was still in the age range, I would totally attend next year! I highly recommend it, as teenagers are some of the most challenged spiritually, as they are trying to figure out their place in this world like who to believe and why for the first time.

This conference was not only super fun but very insightful into a hardcore Christian belief, one that isn't infected or wishy-washy.

One of my favorite parts was the workshops, the one I chose was philosophy, and it was not only intriguing but it taught me lessons I would never have thought of if not provoked to.

I also got to meet some amazing teens, people from all over who came to attend. They were truly amazing and made the Joy and chaos-filled week what it was.

One of the more amusing parts would be the boys being required to hold the doors for the girls, but they weren't always prepared. Which turned into last-minute rushes to whatever door a girl was about to lay hands on, even pushing them out of the way to get to it. It was highly entertaining.

The gentlemen also served the food and waited on the ladies during the ball, they all did very well and were super nice not only at the ball but during the whole week.

The biggest points I took away from that week were:

- A. That there are great people out there willing to be friends, you just have to find them.
- B. You can't expect to go far or get any better if you don't try, giving up will get you nowhere.
- C. I want to try and attend NSA (New Saint Andrews) The college that hosted the conference.

~ Hannah

I appreciated, a lot, the chance to go to this Conference and I would go again. I feel like I gained self-confidence through the week and



while I would like to tell you more, it's just that Called was very much a "you have to be there" to fully understand it and so I'm struggling with how to explain that. I would highly recommend it!

~ Gracia

Thanks to everyone who prayed for us and our trip. I'm extremely grateful that I was able to go. The conference was awesome and I'm definitely planning on going again next year. It is a wonderful experience.

I really liked the atmosphere and how everyone was super nice and fun. The males had to get the doors and it was really fun because I would taunt them by reaching for it and they would all start yelling for some boy to come get it, they also served the females during the dinner and helped us with stuff.

In my poetry workshop, we talked about the most important part of the poem: words. I never thought of it like that before. It's really incredible because the words make sounds of what they mean.

I really loved learning more about how to use words properly. It's amazing how God designed our minds to come up with such complex things.

~ Elijah

*Jesus is King!*

Until next time, the **Groggs**

Pictures:

**Gracia:** Green group, the one being held, left side.

**Hannah:** Fancy group, back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right.

**Elijah:** Lime group, middle row, center of picture



P.S. The digital app Jason and I use in order to keep our U.S. phone numbers is making changes

that we can't afford. By the end of August, we will only be able to make and receive phone calls,

NOT texts. If you would like to have our Dominican numbers, please let us know.