

Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada September 2010

andrewldyeuk@yahoo.co.uk

Methodist Church Office, Lucas Street, St. Georges, Grenada

The new school year has begun at Wesley college and it is not without its challenges. The school Principle is currently in the US with family health issues, there have been some issues with finding enough staff to teach lessons and certain courses have been difficult to begin. In one case the teachers have had to teach a subject when the syllabus has not yet been published. However in the face of these challenges the staff of Wesley College have come together well. The acting principle, school manager and all staff have been working hard to fill the gaps, support each other and help the children at the school.



There are also lots of positives in the school. We have a new room set aside for clothing and textiles work. This was completely rebuilt over the summer and is fitted with sewing machines, sinks and even a small changing room! There are numerous

activities in which many of the teachers give up their spare time for the children. We have teams in football, netball, basketball, cricket, debating, dance, singing and even chess. There are also groups that meet for cadets, young leaders and the Duke of Edinburgh award. I think that it is true to say that without these extra activities that some children would have dropped out of the school system altogether. The teachers involved take on vital mentoring roles in the lives for some, if not many, of the children they are team/club managers for.

Watching the Wesley College football team

For me personally at school it has been a good month. I stepped in to the role of teaching some Maths for a short while before another teacher was employed to fill the gap but I have enjoyed it. One of the students I was helping to learn the guitar now regularly plays for her church in worship time. I have also introduced the music and lyrics of the band Muse in a guidance and counselling session, to get children to think about their hopes and expectations (thanks to the Cornwall Youth Enabler for that idea). The work with teachers to support their science and maths lessons has been continuing and I have been able to develop some simple re-usable resources. One teacher used them in her lesson and the children said it was their 'favourite lesson ever!'. The resources are nothing spectacular but they are new for the children here and she was able to use them in a fun and engaging way to enhance the classroom learning. Brilliant!

September is one of the peak months for hurricane formation. I think as I write this the naming of tropical storms/hurricanes has reached Nicole. During September there have been reports in the region of Hurricanes and storms hitting Mexico, Bermuda, Belize and Jamaica. Some areas have also had huge rain fall causing land slides. Here in Grenada we have had a few very large thunder storms and a wave of rain that lasted about a week, but nothing serious.

One of the things I most enjoy in my week are band practices. Over the last month we have got these going again after the summer break. The regular practices are helping the band to gel together and improve the quality of what we play. Having a band is encouraging young people to be more involved in the worship, as you might expect.

However it is also encouraging to hear the feedback from older members of the congregation who were delighted when the steel pan was introduced in to some of the worship songs. 'It gives a real life and lift to the worship', was the comment of one of the older ladies in the congregation. For me the sound of a steel pan being played in worship added a whole new dimension and culturally relevant



Band Practice
Caribbean feel to our worship time.

Prayer points:

- Please pray for Alex Philip, the Principle of Wesley College and his family as they stay in the US seeking medical treatment.
- Give thanks and pray for the hard work of all the staff in Wesley College in building relationships with vulnerable children.
- Pray for those in Jamaica who have been suffering the effects of Tropical Storm Nicole.
- Please pray for the youth in the church of Grenada that they may be inspired and engaged in worship.



Please feel free to drop me an e-mail at the address above.

God bless,

Andy