Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada
December 2010

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Just like the UK, December in Grenada is month of preparation and celebration. In the run up to Christmas people here do a thorough clean of the house, both inside and out. Curtains are changed, carpets are beaten and windows are cleaned. This culminates in the putting up of the Christmas tree (artificial fir) and the lights. School winds down for the Christmas break and the church winds up in its advent preparations.

A Caribbean Christmas Tree

During the Christmas break from school I have been able to be involved in a number of outdoor services and carol concerts. One highlight for me was to be involved with an outdoor carol concert at Grenville, a small town on the east coast. A group from the local primary school led most of the singing for the service. In the midst of busy shoppers getting ready for Christmas it was great to be part of sharing the nativity story and the children's singing made it feel very Christmassy! Another highlight for me was to go on a carol singing visit with the St Georges Methodist church choir. They make a regular visit each year to a village in the hills of the island and the whole community seem to gather as they arrive. Whilst there they sing old and new Christmas songs, give a bible reading, pray, share food and give some presents to the local children. Again for me just being part of the re-telling of the Christmas story was a great privilege.

Tropical Christmas Flowers

Christmas day was my first in Grenada. It began at 3.50am as I woke to get ready and go to the church for the Christmas day service at 5am. It was the first time I have led worship on a Christmas morning. We started with darkness and candles and ended our time of worship with the rising sun. Although it was very early, I really enjoyed it and the tropical warmth of a Grenadian Christmas morning. Later in the morning I was able to speak to my family via Skype, while they were

preparing and eating their dinner. My Christmas lunch was a great Grenadian feast of beef, ham, chicken, pork, yam, green banana, stewed peas but no one has sprouts here which I really missed! This was followed by black cake which is a bit like Christmas pudding, except it is made using rum, the fruit is minced up and it requires no steaming. After a traditional Christmas snooze in a hammock on their veranda I went off to visit other friends, including the eating of more black cake and lots of home made sorrel (a fruit drink traditional at Christmas). I got home tired and very full, but my first Christmas day in Grenada was great. I experienced wonderful hospitality and great food, but most of all what struck me again was the joy and astounding meaning of Christmas.

'Our God contracted to a span,
Incomprehensibly made man'
C.Wesley

Dressing the Christmas tree with decorations made in sunday school

Please pray for:

- For the ongoing life of the church here as it seeks the way forward in the new year.
- For those from the circuit who are heading off to the district conference in January.
- For the work with young people and children in the Grenada circuit and especially in Bethel church which I attend when possible.
- For Wesley College secondary school as it begins its new term which is full of sporting events.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the Christmas period, thank you for reading these letters over the past year and using them in your prayers. It makes a big difference to me and its encouraging to read your e-mails. Please feel free to e-mail or write to me at the address above.

May you have a peaceful and fulfilling 2011!

God bless, Andy Dye

Mission Partner for the British Methodist Church in Grenada, South Caribbean.