

Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada November 2010

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One of the interesting things about living in a small island nation is that you are very close to the people who run the country. By that I don't mean I know them but quite often the prime minister is driven along my road, or I meet the governors car on the way to work. Or a member of the government is at a meeting, or at church or living next door to you. In the UK meeting the Queen or the Prime Minister or even being at an event where they are present is much more



Rainbow over Wesley college and surroundings

unusual, and accompanied these days by all the security checks. So when the Prime Minister of Grenada visited Wesley College I was keen to see him. He has been doing a tour of the islands secondary schools, to encourage the students but also to take questions from them. I was impressed at the questions our students asked after his talk, which showed a real concern for the environment and education.



The Prime Minister of Grenada at Wesley college

This has been a busy month in the Methodist circuit. With the final activities of youth month and also with the Missionary week. The missionary week takes the form of a meeting at each church in the circuit over the space of a week. Some churches hold the meeting outdoor in the community and some hold it inside the church building. A mission speaker was invited to bring a message at each meeting. The missionary meeting is a time for the church to reflect on its activities over the past year but also to focus on its aims and mission to the community for the coming year. Those churches that hold the meeting outside use the opportunity to engage with the local community.

I wonder what you would do if your local Methodist church set up a band and HUGE and LOUD sound system in your small local shop door way, and then the church gathered and held an outdoor service, blocking the road? Perhaps you would like it, or maybe you would wonder why the peace of your Sunday afternoon was being shattered and you would call the police. I think I might!

However this month I helped the band from Bethel church to play and perform in such a service in Gouyave, a small town on the west coast of Grenada. The sound engineers used the new sound system to good effect and we were able to play a variety of styles of Christian songs from traditional hymns to reggae choruses. I even found myself singing...on my own! The preacher gave a message and members of the local church, most in their older



The band (and loud sound system!) at Gouyave.

years, gave testimony's. The wonderful thing is that people did not call the police, or even shut their doors, but many people sat on verandahs listening or came down to join the singing. At the end about 20 people, maybe 15 of those from the local community, responded to the offer of prayer. It reminded me that different types of outreach and mission are appropriate in different cultures, in different places and at different times.

Prayer points:

- Continue to pray for the nation of Haiti, who continue to face the Cholera crisis and currently have elections amid worries of violence



A view over St Georges, with Cruise ship and national cricket stadium

- Give thanks for encouragement and activity generated through the mission week.

- Give thanks for the youth in the church of Grenada and the vitality and creativity that they have to lead the church forward.

- Please continue to keep Wesley college in your prayers, pray

for the teachers as they seek to engage students in learning and guide them through life issues.

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

God bless, Andy