

# Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada July 2010

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*Illustration 1: The bus on the teachers fun day out at the end of term*

This month has seen schools end their activity for the summer. The day after high school graduation, was the promotion meeting in Wesley college. This meeting was unlike any I have been to before and is due to the different education system. In the UK, progress from year to year through the school is automatic (at least it is, in my experience). In Grenada students are expected to pass end of year exams before they can be promoted in to the next year. Students have to pass a common entrance exam to enter in to secondary education and they also need to gain high enough grades each year to progress in to the next form in secondary school. Then a promotion meeting takes place to discuss the cases of students who do not make the required grades. Staff debate in some detail the benefit of promotion or retention of individual students. In some cases, students within grades 1 and 2 (that is years 7

and 8 in the UK) can be up to 15 or 16 years old. This makes the discussion over their promotion or retention much more critical. Although for me it was a difficult process to get my head around, it made me realise again that whatever the system or resources available, good staff in education establishments are all trying to do the best they can for their students. This is a mentally, physically and emotionally draining task at times, so happy holiday to all teachers, staff and students, God bless your break!

At the start of the school holiday many churches within the Grenada circuit run a vacation bible school. In the UK you may have experienced holiday club at a church which is a similar idea. This month I was involved in the Bethel Methodist Church Vacation Bible School. The theme of the week was, 'Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!' We managed to fit in songs, prayers, bible study times, silly games, crafts, cooking, acting, a day trip out and of course plenty of snacks. During the week we averaged about 20 children each day, with ages from 4 to 16. I really enjoyed it and it was also great to be part of something where all the church could be involved in using their gifts, be they preparing snacks, leading a group, organising the program,

praying or donating resources. We must have done something right because both the parents and the children were asking for a second week on the Friday!

I will take a break from writing a letter during August as I am on holiday, visiting my niece Emma for the first time, which is lovely. Thanks for taking the time to read these letters, taking an interest in the the world church and praying for the different activities of the church in Grenada. It makes a big impact. Thanks to those people who have taken the time to write to me in response to these letters, asking questions, giving me news of life in the UK or even sharing your own experiences of Grenada. It is very welcome and helps me also to reflect on my own thoughts. Also thanks to the friends I have made in Grenada who have supported me and answered my endless questions during these first months!



*Illustration 2: Making Cookies at VBS*

Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the hard work staff and students have put in over the past year in Wesley College.
- Pray that both staff and students would have a refreshing summer break and return in September revitalised.
- Pray for those students joining Wesley College in September, that they may settle in well to a new environment.
- Pray for Grenada and the wider region as it moves in to the peak of the hurricane season. Pray that resources and plans may be prepared wisely.
- Pray for me as I take a break and reflect on my first seven months in Grenada.
- Give thanks for the efforts of all those who have worked hard in planning, resourcing and leading vacation bible schools throughout the Methodist church in Grenada. Pray that the liveliness, vitality and joy of the children may affect all of our church activities.

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

God bless,

Andy