

# Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada

## October 2010

[andrewldyeuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrewldyeuk@yahoo.co.uk)

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

October in Grenada has seen the end of the hurricane season, the return of the big cruise ships for the beginning of the tourist season and lots of different days of thanksgiving, celebration and fun. The month began with a formal dinner as part of the on going celebration of 250 years of Methodist Witness in the Caribbean and Americas. A tasty meal in the lovely setting of the Grenada Yacht Club with the Royal Grenada Police Band playing was well attended with many invited guests able to join in the thanksgiving with those from the various Methodist congregations. We also had the Wesley College school founders day to celebrate the formation of Wesley College forty years ago. It was set up at a time when many were



excluded from secondary education, for the benefit of those who would not otherwise get the chance at a secondary school. Today

Wesley college is open to all, yet still has at its core a mission to serve those who are disadvantaged within the St. Georges area. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October it was national thanksgiving day Grenada. This is especially to remember the events of October 1983 when there was the invasion/liberation by US lead forces in the wake of confusion and killings, including the death of the leader of Grenada at that time. There are many wounds still to heal, yet there is a lot to give thanks for in the progress of Grenada since that time.

This month has also been youth month in the Methodist church. This means that the young people of the circuit have been involved activities every week around the island. Each Sunday the circuit youth have lead worship at one or two of the churches on a Sunday. They have held an overnight vigil of prayer, a circuit bible study, a day visiting various care homes, a youth sports day and a concert including invited guests. I was privileged to take part in many of the events, either helping to lead or just as a participant. The highlight for me was praying, singing and hearing testimony of changed lives from the young people in the St Georges church car park at 5am having kept vigil through the night. The low point was being out second ball in the cricket on the sports day and realising that nine months in the Caribbean has not seen a miracle occur when it comes to my cricketing skills.

This month I also got the chance to research and speak about two men, Arthur and Henry Wharton, at a Junior Missionary meeting. Arthur Wharton was the first black footballer to play in Britain, in the 1880's and 1890's he

played for Rotherham United, Preston North End and Sheffield United. He is also believed to have been the fastest timed runner in the world, running 100 yards in 10 seconds. He was born in Ghana and in the 1865 and came to Britain to train to be a Missionary teacher like his father, the Grenadian, Henry Wharton. Henry Wharton was born in Grenada in the 1820's, and as a young man, he had a heart warming experience of God that stayed with him through his life. He became a minister and then in 1843 he heard about the high number of deaths among European missionaries in West Africa and so wrote to the Wesleyan Missionary Society in London.

*'I place myself at your disposal, and with a trumpet voice across the vast Atlantic, 'Here am I, send me'*



*Circuit Youth having snacks and drinks at my home during their day of visits to care homes*

He was quickly accepted and thus spent 28 years of service in Ghana, as a teacher and minister. Whilst there he was married and had his son, Arthur. Both Arthur and Henry were pioneers and boundary breakers, in sports and in missions. Both would have faced prejudice and misunderstanding. Both had roots in the small Methodist community on this small Caribbean island. Its amazing what God can do and where he can take you.

As I finish writing this we have come to the end of a weekend where hurricane Tomas has swept across the islands of the South East Caribbean. Grenada prepared itself and watched carefully as the weather system veered northwards hitting the islands of Barbados, St Vincent and St Lucia. Over the next few days it is predicted to travel across the Caribbean sea strengthening as it moves toward Haiti and Jamaica.

#### Prayer points:

- Please pray for the islands of Barbados, St Vincent and St Lucia as they repair the damage caused by hurricane Tomas.
- Continue to pray for the nation of Haiti, who have faced earthquake, cholera and may have to face hurricane Tomas.
- Give thanks for the work of Wesley College in St. Georges, over many years.
- Please pray for the youth in the church of Grenada that this month of activities may have deepened their relationship with Jesus.

Please feel free to drop me an e-mail at the address above.  
God bless, Andy