

# Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada June 2010

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

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

June is a month of exams throughout Grenada, with all classes in all schools sitting exams. The results are used to assess if students should progress to the next school, next form or repeat a year. Those who complete form 5 have a graduation ceremony and I enjoyed my first one with Wesley College. For all students and their families this is seen as a very significant step, so the ceremony has all the emotion, dressing up and fancy hair styles you might associate with a wedding. I played the guitar for the school choir who sang the song 'The Climb', and there were many awards and speeches, with the minister of Education for Grenada handing out the diploma's. It was a great way to celebrate the achievement of students and the hard work of parents and teachers.



Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are now for the graduates as they move forward in their lives, but they should also, perhaps more so, be for those from the same form who for various reasons did not get to graduate and leave secondary school without many or any qualifications.



My school also had some graffiti go up during June. Usually this would be a big problem, but this graffiti was great. Done by the local community development group it is a series of encouraging thoughts for the student to see as they come in to school. I really like them and I hope they do some more soon.

Early on this month I had the privilege to lead a harvest festival service. You may remember me mentioning harvest in a previous letter, but things grow all year round so the timing harvest celebration is flexible. It was an extra special celebration for Gouyave Methodist Church as their roof had just been fixed with good timing just before the rainy season. Gouyave church has a congregation normally of about ten people. However for this special Sunday service, the church was overflowing with people from all round the circuit who had come to encourage the people of Gouyave and share in the celebration. During the service different groups from the churches shared poems and songs. For me there were two encouraging things, the first was that a band initiated and lead by one of the young adults from Bethel church (mentioned in last months

prayer requests), lead a time of worship songs. The young people had put a lot of effort in to the practise, transport and setting up of equipment. They did a great job and many people commented on the quality of the music. The second encouraging thing came via a fellow mission partner. In a previous letter I moaned about the words of the hymn, 'We plough the fields and scatter,' and how I felt they were not relevant to life here. When Maggie Patchett, a Mission Partner in Belize, read this she sent me the words that are used in the Methodist church there. So in planning the service I decided to use those words, slightly adjusted for use here. Here they are:

We plough the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land  
But it is fed and watered by  
God's almighty hand  
The onions and tomatoes, the  
lemons, limes and cane  
Cassava and potatoes and all the  
sweet corn grain.

*All good gifts around us are sent  
from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank  
the Lord,  
For all His love.*



He is the great creator of all that here one sees;  
Bananas, cabbage, pumpkins, pineapple, spice and peas;  
The waters here are teeming with big fish, conchs and all;  
To God our sole provider, we on our knees should fall.

For sea and sand and sunshine, our God has been so kind  
He gave us them for living and they are truly fine.  
The tourists come to find them; in turn we all are fed;  
Our daily bread and butter by Him is there outspread.

We thank you then O Father for all things bright and good,  
The mango in its season, the straw work and the wood.  
Accept the gifts we offer for all thy love imparts  
And what thou most desirest, our humble thankful hearts.

(Adapted for Grenada from The Belize version of the Hymn 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter')

The day after the service one lady took the time out to phone me and say she loved the new words to the hymn, she had been singing it all day and the different words made the worship much more 'real'.

Another memorable service I was part of this month was in Truro...yes, Truro, Cornwall. In the evening service I was asked to give a talk and answer questions via Skype on the internet. Despite the line not being perfect, we were able to see and talk to each other. It was encouraging to me to make that connection and thank people for their support and prayers. I hope it gave people a bit more of an insight to daily life here too. Although the risk now is I may be put on the preaching plan in two countries over 4000 miles apart!

Prayer points:

- Give thanks for those students who have graduated from Wesley College, pray for them as they take the next steps either towards finding a job or on to the local community college for further education.
- Give thanks for those students who have contributed to the school community but did not graduate. Pray that they may stay safe and find employment or education opportunities.
- Pray for the education system and schools in Grenada as they seek to best serve all the children on this island, whatever their background, academic achievement or special educational needs might be.
- Pray for my work with teachers in sharing and developing ideas for teaching during this stage of the year when planning is starting for September.
- Give thanks for the efforts of the young people in the newly started Bethel band, pray that they would continue to be encouraged and excited about meeting, sharing and leading worship.

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

God bless,  
Andy