

# Andy Dye's Prayer Letter from Grenada : April 2011

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

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

## **The end of term**

The first week of April was the last week of our very long school term. There are no half terms here in Grenada, so with the late Easter it stretched out to 14 weeks in a row. Many of the teachers at Wesley Collage were very ready for the holiday and yet many also provided extra classes over the two week Easter break! Some classes also spent extra time in school to paint and decorate their class rooms as part of the 'operation transformation' to improve the school environment. This has been a project which has been running since the start of the school year. It has involved students and teachers in taking ownership of their classroom by raising funds and decorating their space. It is hoped that in doing this classes build team spirit, learn to care for their environment and create clean and encouraging surroundings.

Just before the break the science staff spent a little time planning for the upcoming science fair. This will involve students in researching, creating and experimenting ready to present their work at the school science fair in June. The current ideas range from building microwave receivers to studying the decomposition of different fruits. Many of the ideas focus on using the natural resources of the Caribbean. My current favourite is the plan to construct a solar oven/steam turbine from an up turned umbrella. The sun strength between 12 and 2pm here is powerful and it is easy to get sun burn very quickly. There is a lot of use of solar heaters on roofs but the only solar oven I have seen on the island so far is one which is used by the Grenada Chocolate Company. I will give you an update on the scientific progress of the students in June.



*A solar oven at work*

## **On the Radio**

Over the Easter weeks I have had the privilege of preaching on Easter Sunday for the first time. I was also put on 'the plan' to speak on 'Methodism Alive'. This is a radio piece on Grenada Broadcasting Network (GBN), giving a ten minute devotional talk. It is recorded and then is put 'on air' the next day at 5.50am. So I set my alarm, but being the Easter break I slept right through it. However I was woken when my phone rang at 6.05am. Bleary eyed I made it to the phone in time to hear a lady from a church in the circuit thanking me for the talk and prayers. It was so early my brain was not really awake, so I have no idea who it was, but it was still a very encouraging phone call at such an early hour!

## **Visits**

Being the Easter holidays I have also had the opportunity to have a break and look around the island a bit more. On one of the days I went to visit Belmont Estate. This is an old plantation on which Coco is grown organically and they also processes coco brought in by other farmers. It is a fascinating place where you get to tour round the whole plant where the coco is processed in very traditional ways. The organic coco is all used by the Grenada Chocolate company to make great chocolate which you get to taste at the end of the tour. The tour and the museum give the history of the estate which reveals the life of those slaves who were made to work on such plantations. Prominent on the estate are the bell which used to ring to call slaves in from the fields and this hangs from an old tamarind tree, which is the very tree which was used to hang slaves. They are kept as constant reminders of the history of the estate and connection between the land, agriculture, history, politics and people of Grenada and the wider world.



*Tamarind tree and bell*

It is also the season for turtles! So I had a trip up to one of the beaches at the north of the Island on an official tour. We were able to get up close to Leatherback turtles coming in from the sea and laying eggs. These are the largest species of sea turtle and it is an incredible, timeless sight to witness. It was also good to see the care and detail of the work carried out by the volunteers who record the details and aid the work of conserving these great creatures that can be up to 150 years old.

Please pray for:

- For the principle, teachers and students of Wesley College, especially those facing their exams soon.
- For the messages given on Methodism alive, that they might encourage and inspire the listeners in their walk with Jesus.
- The side by side work of education and tourism in Grenada, so that we all may learn from the history of slavery.
- The work of all those in Grenada working to care for the environment, which faces pressures of tourism, housing development and pollution.

Please feel free to e-mail or write to me at the address above.

God bless,  
**Andy Dye**

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