

The Robinson's Herald

April to June 98

Dear Friends And Supporters Of The Robinsons

Greetings from the beautiful and *green* island of Carriacou! Yes, it has been raining! Our cistern is overflowing, those in our congregation now have plenty of water, the hillsides are coming alive with new green growth, and people are beginning to plant gardens! In a word, it is beautiful here and the Lord is blessing.

First, I have some good news to report. The fund for the purchase of property has begun to grow. We received a gracious gift in the amount of \$500.00 toward the purchase of the property—for which we are very thankful. Holy Mount Baptist Missions Helps has set up a special account for this specific purpose. We still have a long way to go before the window of opportunity closes in a few months. **Please remember to pray with us as we continue to look to the Lord for His provision in this matter.**

Next, it has been a tremendous blessing to watch the Lord work these last few weeks. A couple of Sunday nights ago an older retired couple signified that they had prayed with me to receive Christ as their Savior! We have been praying for them for over two years. They had worked and lived in England for 20 to 30 years, but have returned to Carriacou and now live about one half mile from our meeting place. They have a strong Anglican background, thus we have to counsel them to make sure they fully understood that salvation is by grace through faith. The message was clear to show that salvation is not by works but through the finished work and person of Jesus Christ. Please remember to pray for this couple, whom I will keep anonymous at this point.

On that same Sunday night another young lady (in her early 20s) visited our service for the first time. She also made a profession of having received the Lord Jesus as her personal Savior! Because of her suspected past Roman Catholic background we have the same concerns as with the above mentioned couple. Thank God, she did come to church again on the following Sunday morning. This young lady has a sister who has been attending our church for several years. Because of where she and her sister live they are not able to come to church when it rains. **Please remember to pray for both of them to grow in following the Lord Jesus.**

Another lady, in her late twenties, also professed to have received Jesus as her Savior. Unlike the others, I am almost 100% convinced that she fully understands. She has been attending our services for several months. She has also been asking a lot of good questions in Sunday School that shows that she grasps the topics well and has good understanding. Her husband, an ex-Rastafarian, made a profession several months ago, but his profession has been questioned by many—including me. He has stopped attending our services and is using any convenient excuse he can to justify his actions. But his wife and four children have continued to come—and praise God—as mentioned above, she trusted in the Savior in a recent Sunday morning service! Please remember to pray for her.

I think I should explain why I do not usually mention names in our prayer letters. The country of Grenada and the West Indies in general is a close knit society. For economic reasons, we send our prayer letters as second class airmail, which requires that the letters be left open so the contents can be examined. Thus, we only fold and staple each prayer letter which saves us the cost of envelopes. But, any curious person in the

line of handling the mail could very easily look inside and see the names of people they could know. This would not be good for us, the new believers, and the church in general. Also, we also have a few who receive our prayer letters who live in Grenada and a few other countries here in the southern Caribbean. And again, mentioning people by name is taking an unnecessary risk at offending people by having their personal business being made public. I hope you understand. Besides, our God knows these people's names and needs when you pray for them according to the requests as we state them in our prayer letter.

Now for some news that is not so good. By the time you receive this prayer letter, I (Walter) should be in the United States, in Charleston, West Virginia. The reason for this previously unplanned trip is explained as follows:

As many of you know, I developed a nagging health problem right after we returned to Carriacou in November of 1996. The problem specifically relates to rectal discomfort and pain.

I saw two local doctors here on Carriacou several times last year and was treated with antibiotics repeatedly. They treated me for a small rectal fissure that did heal up after several weeks. However, other pain and discomfort continued and the neither doctor detected any other physical problem. I did get a letter of referral from one doctor and I repeatedly tried to make contact with a specialist on the mainland of Grenada. But after trying for two or three weeks, I never got through to him and he never returned my phone calls even after I had left several messages.

Around July or August my condition seemed to be slowly improving. But it recently became painfully apparent that I was not healing up because the problem has continued to come and go over repeated periods of three to five weeks. The degree of the swing was improving—until three to four weeks ago. It was then I began experiencing so much pain and discomfort that I could not sleep well.

Once more I saw a local doctor here who did a digital rectal exam and discovered a “pea-sized lesion” about one inch inside that has a small branch running off from it. He suspects that I have a fistula or a cyst. He placed me on a large dose of antibiotics and also began to try to make contact with the same specialist I had tried to contact last year. But after three weeks, he still had not been able to contact him. Some three weeks ago personnel at the hospital clinic on the mainland finally told me that the specialist's appointment list was filled up until October. I have also been told that this particular doctor is indeed difficult to locate much of the time.

In the mean time, I have a friend in Charleston, West Virginia, who is a medical doctor, that graciously referred me to a surgical specialist in Charleston. I talked with this specialist at great length about my problem during the middle of May. He also suspects that I have a fistula or cyst, but he obviously will not know for sure until he has examined me.

As of writing this letter, I am scheduled to see him on June 9 at 1:00 P.M. in Charleston. He has also tentatively scheduled me for outpatient surgery the next day, Wednesday, June 10, because he believes it will be required to correct my problem. I am supposed to arrive in Charleston on June 8 and I am planning to return to Grenada on July 14, the Lord willing. The surgeon in the US has told me that four to six weeks should be sufficient for me to be well

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on the way to recovery so that I can safely return.

After suffering and having my physical activities limited for a year and a half, I am convince that the Lord is leading me to seek treatment at this time. This problem has held me back from doing some of the things I really want to do and need to do as a pastor. I have basically been filling the pulpit and hoping and praying to be healed. It can also be dangerous for me to have an active infection because of my aortic homograph replacement heart valve that was installed in July of 1991. **I do not profess to know all the reasons, but I am convinced that the Lord has a perfect plan and purpose for whatever lies ahead. I trust that His timing is perfect. Please pray that my response will glorify God.**

I regret that I have to temporarily leave Carriacou for this period of time for several reasons. Not only do I not look forward to undergoing surgery—no matter how minor it may be—but, I especially hate to leave the work here at this time.

We are just beginning to recover from problems and low attendance that Windward Bible Church has been suffering since our furlough two years ago. Two Sunday mornings in May we have had 30 and 29 in attendance, which is the best we have had since we returned in November of 1996. Wednesday nights and Sunday nights are still poorly attended, but we have also had a lot of illness on the island that has been keeping some people home. As mentioned earlier, we are also getting some much need rain (thank God!), yet it makes it difficult for some people to make it to services. As also mentioned above, four adults have recently made professions of receiving the Lord Jesus as their personal savior. Thus, **I do not believe this is a good time for our church to be without someone to fill the pulpit. This is a major concern.**

A young man here has agreed to do what he can, but he is nervous and apprehensive and considers this a very “big challenge.” He is a novice (a believer for three or four years) and I am not comfortable with leaving him in this situation. Yet, we believe we all have to make do the best we can and trust the Lord to make us adequate. I am trusting and asking the Lord to give this young man grace and wisdom in my absence. **His name is John McFarlane, and I would appreciate it very much if you would pray daily for him to be encouraged and be given wisdom.**

In addition, we also have a large team from Danville Bible Baptist, from Danville, West Virginia, that will be arriving on July 17. They are scheduled to be with us through July 27 to conduct a vacation bible school here on Carriacou. **Please pray that I can be back and in better health by that time.**

I also regret having to go stateside because we cannot afford for Linda and Jeshua to take the trip with me. They are remaining on Carriacou to help with the work until I can return. Thankfully, a young lady from CLBC, Leisa Allen, with be here during the month of June to help Linda. **Please pray for Linda, Jeshua, and Leisa to be protected, remain in good health, and to be encouraged during my absence.**

I have mentioned the above for several reasons. First, I covet your prayers for me, my family, and for Windward Bible Church. The Lord knows our needs and I am convinced that He will lead and provide along every step of the way.

Second, I have made pleas by email for someone to come to Carriacou to fill in during my absence. I am still hoping that some couple will step in and fill the gap for me. **Please pray**

that someone more qualified than John can and will come.

I am asking for each who receive this letter to share this need with their congregations. At this point, I need a couple to come to Carriacou and fill our pulpit for us. Even if they can only come for a week or two it would still be a tremendous help. They would be able to stay in my home with my wife and son. If anyone has any questions about what is needed they should be able to reach me through Cross Lanes Bible Church (CLBC) at 304-776-1619. You can also email CLBC through either of the following: Church Secretary, Cheryl Taylor at “CTAYLOR444@aol.com”, or Associate Pastor, Daniel Berger at “DBerger5@aol.com”.

By the way, I am sure that any who come could manage to find some time to visit some of the beautiful beaches, experience the beautiful West Indies, and also find out what overseas missions is like first hand. This would also likely qualify as a valid tax write off. ☺ *NOTE: To stay for longer than two weeks would likely require a passport. There are no special shots that are needed other than normal childhood immunizations.*

Again, we offer our thanks and deep appreciation to all of you who pray for and support us. Thanks for touching our lives with yours for the cause of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Still looking up to Him as your coworkers,

Walter Robinson II

Please send all support to:

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