

The Robinson's Herald

January to March 98

Dear Friends And Supporters Of The Robinsons

Greetings from the Caribbean! As the United States is still experiencing much precipitation in the form of rain and snow, the Caribbean is beginning to languish heavily under what appears to be the development of a very severe dry season. I believe this is also one of the side effects of the worst El Niño this century. As you will see from that to follow, we are hoping to have a small team with us for a couple of weeks, and this always requires more water than we usually consume. We are also providing some water to some of the folks in our congregation who have ran out already. **Please pray for rain to come during our dry season this year. We would like to see our cistern filled up to overflowing.**

Thankfully, we are all doing pretty well physically. We have made some changes in our eating habits, and we are all losing weight and feeling better as a result. I am continuing to do better physically, but I believe I may still need to travel to Grenada and see a specialist in a few months, unless some remaining nagging problems completely disappear before then. **Please continue to pray for our health.**

We are excited and looking forward to Tabitha coming to spend a couple of weeks with us this summer. It also appears that four of her friends from Appalachian Bible College (ABC) may come with her to experience the mission field first hand. We are looking forward to having them minister to our people as much as possible. I believe this will be a blessing for all involved. Tabitha and her friends are currently looking to the Lord for providing airline tickets and other financial help they need for the trip. **Please remember to pray for their safety and provision. Also pray for the Lord to help them all to excel in their academics at ABC.**

Linda and I both have been seeking the Lord for help for quite some time. One young man from ABC, a junior preparing to enter his senior year, is praying about doing his summer intern work with us this summer! A nice young lady is also considering to come Carriacou to give Linda a break from home-schooling during the summer. We know her well and she is currently a teacher at a good Christian school. I believe both of these young people would be a tremendous blessing and help to us! **Please pray for the Lord to direct them and provide all their needs should they actually be led to come.**

Things are still progressing at Windward Bible Church. We have had a few more professions of faith and two more men from Windward have been baptized! There is another man that I mentioned in our previous Robinsons' Herald who also needs to take that step. Lastly, there is a young lady in her late teens who is desiring to follow the Lord in believer's baptism, but she is still struggling in some ways. **Please keep them all in your prayers.**

We also have some young ladies who are struggling with remaining single as opposed to getting involved with men who are not believers, or are marginal believers. We discourage them from getting involved with men that do not attend churches that are accurately biblical in doctrine and practice. We have seen a number of cases in which some ladies' walk with the Lord has been hindered, and even made shipwreck, because they got involved with the wrong type of person. **We would really appreciate your prayers in this matter.**

Linda's Friday Bible studies have consistently good attendance. She is seeing slow progress in some of the younger ones. As you may well imagine, some of the young ones can really be trying at times. Even some older ones sometimes act like children and cause confusion and discouragement. Linda is also teaching one lady in her mid to late forties how to read. She is helping another learn how to type. Two of the ladies call her quite often for counseling and encouragement. One affectionately even calls Linda, "Mum." **Linda is being faithful and consistent, and I am sure she would appreciate your prayers for her to have wisdom and patience in dealing with our precious ladies, and ladies to be.**

The men's Tuesday Bible studies are continuing to grow. On a low night we may have only two or three. On a good night we have four or five. Remarkably, all but one comes from the Windward community, and they are ex-Roman Catholics! For this we praise and thank the God of heaven. **Please pray that the Lord will dispel the spiritual darkness, and also breakdown the adherence to erroneous traditions and mean spirited coercion that the new believers often encounter.** This has been a spiritual battle from the first day we began bringing the Gospel to Windward in June of 1992.

As usual, Jeshua is working hard in school as Linda is home-schooling him. At times it can be difficult because he is the only student. Thus, he does not get the reinforcement from other students this is normally found in a classroom setting. When questions are asked, he is the only student that can respond. When problems are worked out for examples, he is the only student that can participate. Thus, he does not have the opportunity to learn some things by observing others interact with the teacher. However, he does like his "teacher" and they often laugh and get silly together to lighten things up. Sometimes, as I have time, I also help with some subjects such as math, spelling, and science. But by and large, Linda handles the bulk of the teaching responsibility. **Please remember to pray for Linda and Jeshua and the home-schooling needs.**

The last week of February, Linda, Jeshua, and I had the privilege to take a little vacation on the sister Island of Petite Martinique (also known as PM). It is located about 3 ½ miles due east of the northern section of Carriacou. It is about one

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square mile in area and has about 1,000 people on it. Since PM does not have any working pay phones, it was a good place to get away. We did nothing but rest, read, and fellowship with the Lord. We even got to play a lot of Ping-Pong! We also made some new friends and got reacquainted with some whom we had already met a few years back. **We really enjoyed ourselves**—with the exception of February 24, Tuesday night.

A little past 8:00 PM that night, we were just getting ready to go to bed after playing a riddle game. We were sitting on the verandah (the porch) when we heard a speed boat approaching the shore in the dark—which is quite usual here. But we suddenly heard a loud boom, and the sound of the boat's motor immediately ceased. A few moments later we heard young children and a woman screaming for help. The speedboat had run into a larger wooden vessel that was anchored in the harbor! The accident occurred about 100 yards off shore directly in front of the guest house in which we were staying.

Jeshua and I quickly put on our shoes and ran down to the beach. We then began yelling as loud as we could for people with boats to come help. In a couple of minutes, many people had gathered on shore and on the two jetties that protrude out into the harbor. A man, who happened to be returning from Carriacou's Carnival, stopped to lend assistance to those that had been involved in the accident. About ten minutes later he brought two small boys (less than eight years old), a young man in his early twenties, a young woman in her mid-teens, and another woman (in her 40s?) to the jetty.

The small children were terrified and one was bleeding from a cut on the head. The young man and teenage girl were dazed and seriously injured with obviously broken limbs. The older woman, who was the children's mother, had a pretty bad laceration on one arm. However, her husband, the speed boat driver, had been injured and thrown overboard during the collision, and a few swimmers were still looking for him.

I helped the small children out of the boat and onto the jetty. I then got in the boat to try to help the others. Before I knew what was happening—and before I could say anything—the boat's captain took off for Hillsborough on Carriacou with the remaining injured—and me!

I was not against helping, but I believed it was dangerous to go all the way to Hillsborough in the dark, and in a boat that did not have any lights or radio. To make matters worse, there was no moon, we were riding in a 15 to 20 foot open John boat with a powerful motor; and, this was on a Carnival night with several other party people returning from the opposite direction to which we were traveling. I tried to convince the captain to return to PM so we could get a boat with lights, but he would not hear of it. He was not in the mood to take any advice from me. All I could do was pray, and I did plenty of that.

I was also concerned about Jeshua and Linda because I had left Jeshua alone on the beach with instructions to find her. When I left him it was apparent he was distraught from the accident. However, the captain did not give me time to

tell them I that I was going to Carriacou. I could only pray for the Lord to give them peace of mind.

Sure enough, about ten minutes into our voyage, we came to within five or ten feet of colliding head on with another boat traveling from Carriacou to PM! We saw the other boat speeding toward us just in time to swerve to the left, but we passed so close the wash from the other boat lightly splashed us! Thank God for His mercy and watch care! I am convinced angels were with us.

We finally arrived in Hillsborough after being on the sea for about twenty to twenty-five minutes. We immediately off-loaded the injured. The young man and teenage girl had almost lost consciousness by the time we arrived. I suspect they had gone into the shock, and our hasty departure from PM did not allow me to get blankets to cover them so they could stay warm. Once they were taken away, I waited for the Lord to supply a safer method for me to return back to PM, which He promptly arranged in about ten minutes! PTL!

As of the writing of this prayer-letter, the injured are still recovering in Grenada. The woman's husband was finally recovered from the water; but unfortunately, he died soon after he was transported to Carriacou. PM is a beautiful place, but the people really need missionaries to start a good Bible teaching church on the island. **Please remember the Mitchell family as they go through the grieving process of losing their husband, father, and provider. Also pray for missionaries to say yes to the Lord leading them to PM.**

During January and February we have also been getting caught up on some needed repairs on vehicles so they could be inspected. We are also hoping to hire someone to paint the exterior of the house in the next month or so. We really like our rented home, and we are trying to care for it as if it were our own. However, we hope to one day acquire property and build a church building and house to establish a more permanent foundation for the work here. This is not a matter of mere convenience, I believe it is a matter of necessity. This brings me to a really big prayer request that I am asking all our friends to pray with us in earnest.

A Big Prayer Request

We are currently taking steps to hopefully procure property here. We need a place to put up a permanent church building as well as a home for us. This element of permanency is needed because many people here fear that something could happen and the church could close leaving them with no church to which to turn. Thus, many remain faithful to the "traditional" groups that have been here for decades and centuries—if for no other reasons—so they can have official church weddings and a good burial!

Some of the denominational churches and cults have already established an obvious permanent presence here. The Jehovah's Witnesses have one of the most modern looking church buildings so far. I believe they first began working on it

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about six years ago, and they are growing by leaps and bounds. Roman Catholicism has five or six buildings (including one convent) and they are adding more from time to time. The Church of Christ, Pentecostals, ecumenical Evangelicals, and Seventh Day Adventist also have nice roomy buildings.

In addition, a Mormon minister, a Carriacouan who has returned to Carriacou, is setting up his new large home as an official Mormon meeting place. Add this to the Mormons' aggressive television publicity campaign, I believe it is only a matter of time before they become a household name here. I expect the Mormons to begin growing steadily because of their TV commercials that advertise free copies of the King James Version of the Bible, offering the book of Mormon as "another" gospel of Jesus Christ, and also offering their free warm and fuzzy pro-family video-tapes and books.

Denominationalism is the accepted cultural norm here. Thus, it is usually a strike against us when we inform people that we are "nondenominational." The leaders of the other churches have often told their people to be leery of us because we are a small splinter group, or some sort of cult, who only wants their money and bodies to be counted. They have also told people that we are not going to be on Carriacou for long. Unfortunately, they sometimes point to the fact that a number of independent missionaries have come, and have gone from this country over the last ten years. This discourages some people from being receptive to us—and our message.

Therefore, I believe land and a permanent building is a necessity to help the people see that we are serious about remaining here and ministering to the people for the long haul. Moreover, as it becomes more apparent that other churches are helping us, it would also help them to see that even though we are not denominational, we are just one of many churches worldwide that teach the same doctrines and work together when needed and wherever possible.

On top of this, I also believe the Lord wants us to start a Christian school here. Once we have a building it is likely the Lord will begin to lead other missionaries to come work with us as teachers.

Finally, once we are firmly established and widely recognized in the community as a good "religion," it will help pave the way for us to plant (or help others plant) more churches like Windward Bible all over Carriacou. There are at least four other areas that need them on this island of fourteen square miles with a population of some 6,000 people.

This island is literally busting at the seams with new houses and businesses being built, and more people and automobiles are arriving weekly. I believe there is enough work to keep us here for the rest of our lives. Unless the Lord leads otherwise, that is what we plan to do—even into "retirement" as the Lord tarries and gives us health to do so.

The land that has been promised to us is about 4/5ths of an acre in area, and it looks like it will cost us between \$50,000 and \$60,000 dollars (US\$). This is a little less than the current

going price for property in the area we are hoping to get. This is the first time someone has even been willing to sell us land, thus this in itself is a miracle. We hope to take official steps to procure it by August of this year. **We earnestly covet your prayers in the acquisition of this property.**

Thanks again for the kind comments and notes of appreciation that some of you sent in regard to the last few editions of "The Robinson's Herald." I am speaking specifically about the issues that dealt with the Promise Keepers and Rastafarianism. It is nice to know the extra effort is appreciated and beneficial to our readers.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you who pray for and support us in the work here. I only wish you could meet the people whose lives are being transformed by the power of God because of your gracious help. In the eternal kingdom, I believe each will see the real value of their sacrifice when God grants crowns and rewards to each for their work and labor of love that has been done in this life for Jesus' sake.

Still looking up to Him as your coworkers,

Walter Robinson II

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