

The Robinson's Herald

July to September 98

Dear Friends And Supporters Of The Robinsons

Greetings from the lush and beautiful hurricane alley of the southern Caribbean! We have much to report in our regular third quarterly herald report.

As my intentions were explained in our last herald, I did travel to Charleston, West Virginia on June 9 and returned on July 10. My physical problem was promptly diagnosed as a severe case of prostatitis. The scheduled surgery was canceled and I was put on a hefty dose of gold-plated antibiotics. I was told by the doctors that I should begin feeling better in two to four weeks. Two close friends that had also suffered with this problem told me that it had taken them months to get well. One was on antibiotics for six months, the other had to take them for over a year! They both experienced ongoing excruciating pain and relentless fatigue. I was also told that deep discouragement can also go hand in hand with this affliction. I know first hand about all these symptoms and more.

After being on the drug therapy for three months it seemed the expensive medication provided only a little improvement after the first three weeks, but did not provide any large scale or continuing improvement over the following nine to ten weeks. I also began to experience some big time pain in the area of my left kidney that led my doctor here on Carriacou to suspect that infection had spread to it, or perhaps I was having some kidney stone problems. Thus, the doctor here changed my medication to another type that my urologist in the US said he was going to try if the first one failed. After being on it for three weeks the kidney pain has subsided, but I still have not seen any real improvement with the prostate problems. I even seem to be suffering some set back with that problem because I am beginning to experience lower back pain and pain in my legs that slowly left after I began the first antibiotic three months ago. I am also experiencing cold sweats at times. **Please remember to pray for God to give me health, grace, and wisdom in the days ahead as I continue to live with the suffering.**

Now for some more positive news. First, the day after I left Carriacou a young lady named Leisa Allen came to Carriacou to stay with Linda and Jeshua. She is from Cross Lanes Bible Church, our sending church, and she is also a teacher at Cross Lanes Christian School. Linda and I have known her and her family for over twelve years. After she arrived she immediately took over home-schooling Jeshua for the month and also provided much needed conversation and fellowship for Linda during my absence. She also taught children's Sunday School and the ladies' Friday night Bible study. On top of this she played the piano during all the services. She returned to Cross Lanes the day before I left for Carriacou, and believe it or not, none of us had planned the timing to work as it did. The Lord just worked it out that way! PTL! ☺ In a word, she was like an angel of the Lord who tremendously blessed the Robinsons and all the folks of Windward Bible Church. We really appreciated her and her blessed ministry.

Second, the Lord used the saints at Cross Lanes Bible Church, Cross Lanes, West Virginia, to supply the finances that were needed for me to make the round trip. A nice family at CLBC also took me into their home while I was there and they

treated me like family. What a blessing to be ministered to and helped by such saints!

My recent trip to the US was also a blessing in many other ways. I especially enjoyed the fellowship with old friends in Christ and the good teaching and preaching I found at Cross Lanes Bible Church and at Grace Gospel Church in Daniels, West Virginia. Right before I returned I also had the opportunity to bring a message in each of these churches. I also got a chance to see and visit much of my family. It was all very refreshing and a real blessing to me.

I was also able to procure a number of much need items. The Lord used Grace Gospel Church and an individual to provide over 100 hymn books for Windward Bible Church! Our previously used ones had become pretty raggedy over the last six years. What a blessing it is to have these that are in much better shape!

About a week after I returned to Carriacou a travel weary team of 16 arrived on Carriacou to conduct a Vacation Bible School at the local Dover Government School that is located about one mile from our home. They arrived at around 9:00 AM, Saturday, the 18th of July. They were from Danville Bible Baptist Church, in Danville, West Virginia. The group was made up of eight teenage young ladies, two teenage young men, two married couples, and two other adults. Youth Pastor, Greg Smith, was their leader.

The entire group stayed in our home and each believer was a blessing many times over! We believe the VBS (held Monday through Friday, July 20-24) was a tremendous success with each day averaging 95 - 100 children in attendance! The biggest blessing is that over 40 children made professions of having received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior! I believe a significant number of these were sincere and fully understood what they were doing. Now they need much prayer and encouragement because most of them will not receive it from their families that have been steeped in Roman Catholicism for generation after generation.

In addition to the VBS, the Lord led us and the team leader to have a series of special meetings on that Wednesday through Friday, July 22-24. Pastor Greg preached Wednesday and Friday and I preached on Thursday. Our people were thrilled with the special music, moving testimonies (often tear filled) by the team's youth and adults. All of us at Windward Bible Church were challenged and encouraged by the good preaching, special music, and the warm fellowship. The attendance was in the high 30s and low 40s and the response by our people was very good. The team also took over all the services on the first Sunday morning after they arrived in which our seating capacity was maxed out! They also conducted the Sunday School and Sunday morning worship service for the following weekend.

During the week we were also led to use four nights to show four end-time theme video tapes by Mark IV productions in our home to the team. They were entitled, *A Thief in the Night*, *A Distant Thunder*, *Image of the Beast*, and *Prodigal Planet*. Most of the team had not seen them before and seemed to really enjoy them. The video tapes led to some interesting discussions at the close of each day. Many went to bed with a pungent reminder that the Lord Jesus could come at any time to mysteriously "catch away" His church. The tapes also served as an important

reminder of the necessity to witness to others while time remains for believers to do so.

The group from Danville Bible Baptist was a blessing from day one. Each demonstrated a real servant attitude and the cooperation among each was exemplary. There were *no* arguments or hurt feelings, and almost every night ended with a group devotion that was lead by Pastor Greg. The personal testimonies and sharing during each night was refreshing and spirit-filled and they challenged all present. They could not have come at a better time and they have truly been used of the Lord as ministers to the Robinson's and all the other saints at Windward Bible Church on Carriacou. The entire week served to provoke personal revival for us all.

During that same week I spent much of my time constructing two needed eight foot long pews to increase our seating capacity to a little over fifty. A couple of men with the team gave me some much appreciated help during the project. It was hot hard work—even if I had been feeling well—but God gave us strength, health, and wisdom so the job could be completed. We sat the last pew in place on that Thursday and it was used in the service an hour or so later. After the team left Carriacou I made some much needed repairs to the drive train of our vehicle, our 1987 four wheel drive Dodge Colt Vista station-wagon. I also proceeded to build a communion table, an audio visual stand for an overhead projector and television set, and two auxiliary tables. I constructed these additional pieces of furniture at that time because of some additional special meetings we scheduled at Windward Bible Church.

To continue the spirit of revival that the team left with us, we at Windward Bible Church were led to show the same Mark IV video tapes to our congregation and the community at large in another four nights of special meetings. They took place on September 1–4. We had initially hired two buses, but one could not carry all on his return trip because many had found their own way or arrived late. The second night we increased the number of buses to three. I was pleasantly surprised to see many Roman Catholics from the Windward area and Bogles present. As you may or may not know, Roman Catholicism rejects the teaching of salvation by grace *apart from works*, the “*rapture*” (*i.e.*, the “*catching away*” of 1 Thessalonians 4:17), and the literal interpretation of the Bible.

The attendance on each of the four nights exceeded our greatest expectations! Our lowest attended night was probably in the low eighties, while the highest attended night was Friday with at least ninety-five present! This was a record attendance for WBC! It was about half children and half adults. Most had Roman Catholic backgrounds even though a few Pentecostals and ecumenical Evangelicals also came. The people watched our 20” television set each night with rapt attention.

Each night after the film I stressed that salvation is a *FREE* gift that God offers through faith in the person and finished work of Jesus Christ—*APART FROM ALL WORKS*. Roman Catholics and many Pentecostals believe water baptism is necessary for salvation. They and some ecumenical Evangelicals here also believe salvation can be lost if *genuine* believers fall into sin and/or profess to no longer believe in Jesus Christ. Consequently, I stressed that water baptism, rituals, and good deeds have nothing to do with being saved. I also stressed that salvation is something genuine believers can never loose because Jesus remains “*faithful*” even if they ever come to the place were they “*believe not*” (2 Timothy 2:13). I also

stressed that God will discipline *only His* children that get into sin, which is something that cannot happen if believers loose their salvation because of sin and unbelief. If genuine believers lost their salvation because of such, they would no longer be a child of God who could be disciplined by Him (Hebrews 12:6–8).

On the last night an adult man from the stanch Roman Catholic Windward area signified that he had prayed with me to receive Christ as his Savior. Several children and another adult or two did the same throughout the week. We praise God for the immediate results and ask that you **pray with us that this man and the others will grow and turn their back completely on the religion of Rome and other erroneous belief systems. Also pray that all who professed salvation will understand and trust completely in Christ alone and God's grace for salvation. Lastly, pray that the Pentecostals and ecumenical Evangelicals will renounce the false doctrines of baptismal regeneration and salvation by works that can be lost.**

During the remainder of September we have repeatedly had Sunday morning attendance to be in the low to mid 30s. This is the best we have had since we returned from our 1996 furlough! We thank God and ask that you all keep praying. We have had a few more to make new professions of faith in Christ, and also a few to renew their faith. **Please pray for the growth of new believers.**

In addition, I have recently began weekly classes with a 32 year old man to equip him to fulfill his expressed call to be an evangelist. This is new to both of us and I very much desire your prayers. His name is John McFarlane. **Please pray for me to have wisdom in instruction and for John to persevere in his studies.** I am also open to any suggested courses or curriculum that some of you could recommend.

As always the Lord has continued to be faithful. He graciously supplied the needed finances to bring a three feet square cube crate to Carriacou that contained the hymn books and other items that I procured while in the US. It arrived August 22. The Lord also led a gracious couple to supply us with a seven year old refrigerator to replace our thirty year old one that is suffering from a severe case of rust. The refrigerator has arrived and is working great, and it looks like new! **The duty tax was not too bad and we hope to replace the funds soon.** Praise God for meeting this great family need!

During the month of September we also had our house painted. A local young man did the job. It really looks good and his price was more than fair. We are thankful the job is now behind us. We also found a set of tires that was really needed for the car. **We hope to finish paying for the tires and the paint job in November.**

The following shows how much we need people to pray regularly for our safety. The latter part of September Jeshua came home from playing down the street with some of his friends. He was visibly shaken and told us that a 14 year old boy had put a cutlass (a *machete* or large knife!) to the side of his neck and head to threaten him. It seemed the boy had become angry because Jeshua had let someone else ride his homemade grass sled instead of him. I immediately went to the scene and found the offending boy and others who had witnessed the event. The witnesses all verified Jeshua's story. I immediately took the 14 year old to the local police station. A couple of hours later the police took the boy to his mother and gave them a stern talking to and warning. I was also told that a social worker would monitor the situation. **Praise God for His protection over Jeshua!**

We have had several instances over the last few months that make it seem that we have been under intense spiritual attack since the Vacation Bible school and the special meetings we have had since July. **We hope that each of you will remember to pray for our safety regularly.**

A Special Need And Opportunity To Pierce The Darkness

I will now turn to a matter that I have mentioned from time to time in our previous prayer letters. If you have followed them over the years you know that I very seldom mention financial needs. But I believe it is necessary to mention some at this point.

First, it is my real hope that our supporting churches and friends will pray about helping us with the purchase of property so we can build a permanent church building and dwelling on Carriacou. We have already explained the real need for such in a previous herald. We have not said much about it since then, but I assure you that despite our struggles, discouragement, and obstacles we are serious about seeing the full development of Windward Bible Church and several other churches like it on Carriacou. **This island desperately needs other churches like ours that we also hope to plant. It also needs a Christian school that shares our biblical perspective and philosophy and also a safe place for women and children to go who are fleeing abusive men. We believe permanent facilities would greatly enhance our ability to reach the above goals just as such facilities help churches in the US.**

A couple of churches have already told me that they will send teams to help with construction once we procure property and materials. We have a golden and rare opportunity to purchase some key property in a good area, but that door could close very soon if we cannot enter into some sort of serious commitment. We need about \$55,000.00 (US\$) to purchase the property that amounts to $\frac{4}{5}$ ths of an acre. I believe that is a fair price for such a good lot on a tropical island that is undergoing rapid development as a tourist center.

The lot is located on a main paved road that leads right into the village of Windward which is only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. High tension three phase power and telephone lines are already there. The lot is also far enough above sea level and surrounded by terrain that should provide reasonable protection from hurricanes and tidal waves. We praise the Lord for the \$500.00 He has already sent us for this purpose, and we are looking for Him to raise up others to join in this venture soon. **If just fifteen churches could help with just 4,000.00 each we could have the property free and clear.** Once the property has been procured we will have a basis for beginning a building program. We need to hear from you *soon* if you are going to help in this matter. **Time is rapidly running out.**

There is also a single young man who is seriously considering coming to Carriacou to work with us for about three months next year. It could be that the Lord may lead him and perhaps one other to come here permanently to work with us. What a blessing that would be! **Pray for us in this regard because such help is much needed!**

The young man is Pink Davis, who is a second year student at Appalachian Bible College in Bradley West Virginia. I am sure he would appreciate your prayers and any help in meeting

travel expenses such as airline tickets, etc. He can be reached at the following address:

Pink Davis
Box ABC
Bradley, West Virginia 25818
Tel. 304-877-6428

Lastly, we are very much looking forward to Tabitha coming to Carriacou to spend the Christmas holidays with us. We are not only eager to see her, but we are also excited about having her help for most of the month. I am also sure she is looking forward to spending time with us, seeing her West Indian friends, and also taking in some beaches and other R & R. We are hoping she can arrive around December 18 and return to Bradley, West Virginia around January 10. **As you can imagine, she needs help with airfare and other travel expenses.** Round trip tickets to this part of the world usually run around \$900.00 (US\$). Any help should be sent to Holy Mount and specially earmarked as "Tabitha's Travel expenses."

Thanks again for you faithful prayers, financial support, and special gifts. I assure you that the Lord has accomplished much on Carriacou with your faithful help.

Still looking up to Him as your coworkers,

Walter Robinson II

Please send all support to:

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