

WISE

Windward Islands School of Evangelism

Property Sales, Immigration & Registration--OH MY!

All three of these big issues for WISE are still in our prayers. Any day now, the sale of WISE's remaining property in St. Vincent is to be finalized—and yes, in typical Caribbean time, this has been said for the last four months. The good news is that as soon as that sale is finalized, we can complete the purchase of the property here in Barbados!

Due to the hard hurricane season last year, several of our prospective students were not able to come to Barbados for this year's sessions. We also had several African students from various countries preparing to come study at WISE. At the start of the school term, Barbados Immigration told us these students had been accepted and would be processed shortly. Almost two months later, we still have not received word these students' visas have been granted. To complicate matters, the Immigration Department has moved to new offices, causing further delays. Thus, these African students must wait another year to begin their studies. Please pray for these waiting students as they delay their preparations for coming to WISE and must make other plans for this year.

The Barbados Accreditation Council continues to have WISE on hold as well. We are eager to begin advertising our programs and to grow our student numbers. The Accreditation Council is new and still developing, so we are eagerly waiting and praying for complete approval of additional programs for WISE.



Student Highlight

One of our new students also holds the honor of being the oldest student ever to attend WISE. This student's name is Sis. Ruby Best--or better known here as Granny Best. We were privileged to celebrate her 84th birthday last week. She came to graduation this past summer; and after hearing the graduates speak, she decided she had to attend WISE. She calls everyone at WISE her family now and cherishes the fellowship. Granny's children told her transportation to the college would be a problem because the buses are unpredictable, so she was very thankful when God provided one of the WISE staff to bring her. Granny Best is eager to continue learning to interpret Scripture better to share the Good News with the lost around her. She says, "Don't delay or let age give you regrets in not doing something you should or have always wanted to do."



Welcome Bro. Joe and Sis. Rickie!

They both joined the WISE team after a year of fundraising. Bro. Joe is teaching several classes. Sis. Rickie is our new campus nurse and librarian. Both are also leading fellowship with the students, helping recruit additional students and leading new ministry outreaches for our students.



New Seminars Offered

WISE is offering free seminars of our classes to churches on the island.



Missionary Report

What We're Learning on the Field...from Three Different Missionary Families

What we're learning on the Field...after our 1st Month

Take everything in stride/persevere/be flexible...Our first month has been a roller coaster ride. Rickie was almost kept from flying here (weird visa things.) I'm recovering from ankle surgery (was non-weight bearing for first four weeks here.) I got a parking ticket within our first week, and our car broke down two weeks later. These are not big problems, but the weight of them feels emphasized in a new and foreign culture. We do have the opportunity to choose how we respond, though. Looking back, we got frustrated and overwhelmed at times, but the world didn't end, and we're still pumped to be here. Despite those minor road bumps, there are so many greater and more fulfilling things of which to take note.

Celebrate the little victories. Everything feels new here, and we've learned to celebrate things that we wouldn't have thought twice about in the States. This has made us both so much more joyful and incredibly more aware of the ways that the Lord blesses us every day! Here are some examples of things we've enjoyed celebrating and thanking God for: not getting lost on the way to the grocery store, not dying while trying to figure out how to drive on the left side of the road, figuring out how to register our car in a different country, paying the aforementioned parking ticket (the office we had to visit to pay was next to impossible to find), being part of the community at the school as well as a church community, having a successful two weeks of class, and making some friends on the beach and meeting with them to get a personal and free tour of the island, having an air conditioner in our bedroom we can use at night, having good neighbors and coworkers, and being where we believe the Lord wants us. There is great peace in having that confidence.

Pray all the time. We've found that our prayer lives have never been such an obvious necessity. We find ourselves speaking to God so much more. We have a huge sense of need for Him and His intervention in our lives and ministries. Take it all in. Don't be so fast to draw conclusions. Take a humble approach. Ask a lot of questions. Learn and serve.

Rely on each other. In our marriage--this is our first time with no family around in times of need or crisis. Rickie and I have had to recognize that more so now than ever before, we must act and serve and live as a team. We understand the great victory that Satan would enjoy if he infiltrated our marriage. As a staff--without the help of Brice and Amanda, Jeff and Jane and the local staff, we would have been up the creek without a paddle. They have connections from living here, and willingly share those connections with us. We are surrounded by people that not only have the school's best interests in mind, but also have our best interests in mind. They want to set us up for success and give us the opportunities to do so. They have experience, knowledge and grace that enables them to be the perfect resources for a couple of brand-new missionaries on the field. – Bro. Joe & Sis. Rickie



What I'm Learning on the Field...After 11 Years

Patience is slowly developed. We have had so much to teach us this—hour- long waits at the bank, a three-month wait to get Internet, days waiting for water, three years of waiting on government registration and property transactions to finalize, etc. And yet, still we pray and wait and keep being reminded God provides in His timing. And we have found it either grows us and/or is in His best way, which was better than we could have ever worked or planned it out.

Where you live on the field is “home.” While we love seeing familiar faces and places (Shakespeare’s Pizza & Jimmy John’s), arriving back here with the old van doors opening and students and staff piling out with big hugs and sleeping in our own beds with dressers (not suitcases) is SOOO nice. And Brice would say every meal tastes better with a big cup of cold Mauby and the Bajan hot sauce to add to it. God provides in the absences from the States - dear friends on the field become like family in the absence of seeing friends and family.

Let the Holy Spirit lead. Not just saying yes to everything. While we try to be sensitive to the culture, we have to wait and listen to the Spirit’s leading.

Family - It’s critical to have a spouse who shares the same passion and commitment to the work and people as I do. And we are so blessed with all the people we meet here, that we live with and those that visit on work teams. All become our family.

Being thankful for the small blessings and times in life. After several international moves, being in the major earthquake in Haiti and helping with relief there, and going through personal family loss...each

moment is cherished. Cool breezes the hurricanes' winds bring, free fruits growing on the trees to eat, monkeys and turtles roaming the yard to enjoy, the sun out and drying laundry on the line, kids growing and playing with the students, growing more dependent on the Lord each day, staff laughing together over lunch, worshipping in church as a large family, and letting the Holy Spirit continue to lead. All are such special moments for which we are so thankful. – Bro. Brice and Sis. Amanda



What we're Learning on the Field...After 25 years

They say, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Well, we're here to say differently. After 25 years working with WISE from its beginning and then 16 years away, we are back having another go at it. This college has had an enduring history, and it challenges us with new things to be learned.

Although it is the same work, in the same region, the same type of food and so forth, it is a different country. We have been through Barbados many times before and know many people living here but have never lived here ourselves. So we are finding our way around in a place that has thousands of roads (that's how it seems), instead of two main roads going out of town. We are figuring out how to get enough of Jane's medicines to last a year between visits to the States. We are learning new songs with a different kind of rhythm, where to shop and all those physical things. The climate is drier and hotter than St. Vincent, so we are learning to adjust to that.

Our preacher here asked about the hardest thing to adjust to, and without hesitation Jane answered, "communication." It is a challenge, because every island is a little different in the mindset,

presuppositions and expectations of its people. Each has its own personality. So, we are learning those things.

We are learning to recognize the hand of God at work in different ways, seeing how the work changes and grows and takes on different shapes and forms, while still serving the same purpose of training leaders for Caribbean churches.

Being at a different stage of life now, we have a different position on the staff here. We are now the “older couple” working under a younger director, and with some younger staff. God has a lot to teach us in this! We love being part of this team and learning how to fit into the roles God has for us.

Perhaps the biggest thing we are learning, though, is that life is far from over when you top 60. We did not come to a Caribbean island to retire (although it sounds like a nice idea). What a blessing to have this opportunity for meaningful service! What a wonderful God!



WISE WISHLIST Need

- Piano (to be used in the chapel for classes, lessons & worship) - \$2,000
 - Cafeteria Windows - \$400 each
-

Prayers & Updates

1. For the Program Registration to Be Completed
2. Continued Positive Relationship with Immigration
3. Property Sale & Purchase to Be Completed
4. Staff & Students
5. Our Graduates All Over the Islands
6. Praise for Supporters
7. Our Outreach Here (regular prison ministry, kids' community outreach, etc.)