

# WISE

Windward Islands School of Evangelism

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## COVID Changes

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Life has changed for everyone in these times. For us at WISE, some staff have gotten stuck or had extended furloughs. Graduates have been delayed in getting home after two years away. Incoming students can't find planes to fly into Barbados. COVID tests are almost impossible to have performed and then have the official results in hand to show the government within 72 hours of traveling. Masks are mandatory here and are so hard to wear in sweltering temperatures. So many have lost livelihoods from Barbados losing its #1 economic engine – tourism. Thankfully, no one we know has lost loved ones to the virus.

Our family was all prepared to come back with our new little guy, but some of us tested positive as we prepared to travel. (There are lots of us needing to be negative.) Then, after waiting and quarantining, different ones of us tested positive. This kept happening. We were told by several experts that the virus can stay in your system for months, and that tests have 30% inaccuracy results. When we were finally able to travel back to Barbados, our boys again tested positive. We explained we previously had the virus; and the head medical chief took blood tests, studied our cases and pronounced us very lucky COVID carriers. We became the first travelers they had seen who didn't have to quarantine and the safest people on the island since we had already had the virus. Currently, they believe once a person has COVID, that person can't be infected again.

Upon arrival, we hit the ground running. Our second-year students had already begun classes--some in person and some with Zoom. Our new students' classes have been a tornado and whirlwind all wrapped into one--and it's all still cycling. We would appreciate your prayers as we muddle our way through this uncharted territory. After much prayer and counsel, we decided not to cancel this year. We know some of these students save for years to come, and we are hoping to make it a reality for them to study. So, now we head to the airport to pick up students, not knowing if they will come out of the airport or not. Customs does not even check the usual items now—currently they just check for COVID. Residents of various countries, depending on risk factors, have to quarantine for different lengths of time. So, the young lady from St. Vincent was allowed to come out immediately. The students from Jamaica have to quarantine for 5 days with negative tests. We have no clue how long the Nigerian student will be quarantined since our student is the first person from Nigeria to enter Barbados during the COVID pandemic. And the Haitian students have to Zoom until the airlines fly again.

So, we reflect and give God thanks that classes are meeting, and students are slowly being able to enter Barbados and make their way to WISE. We don't know the future; but honestly, we never have. We have just kept the faith and continued to persevere and train the students God sends. Thank you for

being a part of the work here! In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul reminds the church then and us today to, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”



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## PRAISE AND PRAYER NEEDS

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- For our stuck, homesick graduates.
- For staff on Barbados, short-staffed this year.
- For Sis. Angh’s (Immigration Coordinator) husband who is sick and not eating.
- For Bro. Arlington (local staff & pastor) sorrow for 32-year-old nephew’s passing away from an infected leg.
- For Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jane (currently in the U.S.) Sis. Jane is having surgery next week on her back, and Bro. Jeff is having a cancerous spot removed on his neck this week.

- For Bro. Lucas & his family as they wait on their work permit to be completed so they can come to WISE.
  - For future director's family (the Wheats) as they gather paperwork to file for work permits to live here in Barbados.
  - For past teachers Bro. Joe and Sis. Rickie as they transitioned to a special ministry in Ft. Collins, CO and minister there.
  - Praise for new chairman of the WISE board, Bro. Dave Ferguson. We were thankful to have had Bro. Mike Maxwell for 8 years before he passed the baton to Bro. Dave.
  - For our new students to find consistent internet access until they can arrive here, and for them to be disciplined to study in their home countries.
  - For our current, on-site students as they study, do work study and become involved in the local churches here.
  - For continued funds that have come in to allow WISE to continue its ministry.
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## WISE WISH LIST

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- Air Compressor – \$400
  - Fence around property - \$35,000 (Thieves have been stealing the school's coconuts, poisoning the guard dogs and threatening schoolteachers and students. Farmers are also allowing their animals to eat our garden produce.)
  - Misc. COVID Needs – help for our students with overpriced travel tickets, quarantine costs and food costs while in quarantine.
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