

WISE

Windward Islands School of Evangelism

Dear friends of WISE,

We want you to meet the second-year students who are on campus right now. We thought you would enjoy seeing their faces, hearing their stories, and reading a few of their comments about what WISE has meant to them. Enjoy!

Bertude is married to a WISE graduate who is a preacher in Haiti, and they have a six-year-old son. Her husband was planning to go to Ozark Christian College to finish his bachelor's degree. They decided that while he was there, she should come to WISE and get her associate degree. She speaks Creole, French and English. She arrived in Barbados in the fall of 2021. Her husband, however, was not able to get a visa to go to the US because the embassy in Haiti was closed due to the violence. It has been a rough road for her, missing her family. At one point she was ready to leave, after her husband was denied a visa to come and visit her here. But we encouraged her, prayed for her, and she decided to stay for her second year and graduate. She has a sweet heart, and goes about the campus singing.



Ritchy and Steve are brothers. When he was young, Ritchy's parents both died, and he was adopted by Steve's parents. Steve is very quiet, likes sports, and plays drums and bass guitar. Ritchy plays drums, bass and keyboard. They, along with four others in Haiti, were planning to come to WISE in 2020 when Covid struck. But they persevered, and one year later they were the only two of those six that made it here. They both love to serve. Ritchy plays drums for the Church Village Church of Christ, and Steve helps with the youth group at Ruby Christian Church.



“I have experienced a great change in my life by coming to WISE, where Jesus has greatly touched me through this experience . . . and I am still improving myself in submission to the word of God to be sent out by him and spread the gospel all over the world.”



“I encountered a lot of difficulties because of Covid. When I arrived in Barbados I caught the Covid, I had arrived at a time where I had no more courage to continue the process, I was completely discouraged. But God had a plan for me, for my life. When I had the chance to be on campus, I started to feel stronger because of the environment, so I started to join the WISE family.

WISE teaches us the word of God, but also helps us practice the patterns of Jesus. WISE helps me develop spiritual disciplines in my life such as meditation on the Word of God, prayer, etc. In brief, WISE is a school that has completely changed my life; after completing courses presented at WISE Bible College, I will engage myself in influencing my surroundings, especially in the area that God will send me.”



Renee is an American who lives in Barbados. She has had a rough life, including being in several major car crashes. As a result, her body has sustained permanent damage. When she moved to Barbados, she was wheelchair bound, but after several years she can now get around on her feet. She has been a student for three years, but has not finished yet because of health complications that kept stopping her from completing the course. She is now in her 4th term, and if she can keep going will graduate in April.

“Hello, my name is Renee Ellison. I am not the typical ‘WISE student.’ I have been a disciple for close to 30 years. I have been a soldier, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. After surviving several strokes and then the death of my spouse, I began to wonder ‘what next Lord?’ ‘Seek wisdom’ kept coming up at every turn, so I set out to do just that. I believe God led me to WISE. It hasn’t been an easy, straightforward journey; however, I refuse to give up. I believe that this is where God wants me and until he deems me finished . . . here I shall remain.”



Godson is from a large church in southern Nigeria. He is older than the usual Bible college student, and has been an international evangelistic preacher for many years. Much of his preaching was done in India. He also had a difficult time getting here to WISE. He has preached at several of our churches here in Barbados, and they love his passionate, rousing style. It is obvious that he has intercultural experience, as he has adjusted to the food, housing, and way of doing things here without complaint.

“It is a great time here in WISE studying. My studies here have expanded my cross-cultural view as a missionary. The relationship between teachers, staff, visitors and students is one of the best. The study environment is excellent and the opportunity to share with other believers in churches is exceptional.”



We hope it warms your heart as it does ours to hear these students and to see what God is doing in their lives. Their perseverance just to be here in the face of so many difficulties, is an example to all of us. Their numbers may seem small, but God's work through them will be significant, and has already been significant. Thank you for standing behind them in your prayers and financial support of WISE!

Prayer Points:

- All five of these students are scheduled to graduate in April 2023. Please pray for them.
- Please pray for our teachers and staff, several of whom are experiencing health challenges.
- Pray for new recruitment efforts in the Caribbean to result in more students from more countries coming to join us in 2023. Pray for Kevin, our Recruitment Coordinator.
- Pray for the WISE Barbados Recruitment Strategy being launched to target local students.
- Jeff and Jane Robertson are finally going on their Israel trip, departing October 27. This was originally scheduled for June 2020 and postponed several times because of Covid.

Blessings,
The WISE Family