

August 2008

Dear Family and Friends,



Greetings from Carriacou and the Harbour Light of the Windwards. It is about time to bring everyone up to date on what has been happening since we arrived here in Carriacou. Can it be three months ago already?

The first several days here were spent in just getting acclimated to the island. One would think that on an island this small (2 1/2 miles wide and approximately 7 miles long) one wouldn't need much acclimation; however, we are now feeling much more at home with the streets and roads that were once so confusing.

Our first weeks at the Harbour Light were spent in becoming acquainted with the overall ministry of the radio station. John also spent much time in sorting out old, worn out equipment and made a trip to the dump to discard things that were either beyond repair or salvage for usable parts. That also gave him hands on experience with what things were available for future repair projects. Sharon ventured into an unknown realm as she began recording stories via computer to be used in the production of the Captain's Kids program. She has also done a little of the office work. Everyone at the Harbour Light wears many hats, so we both expect to be involved in a variety of ways. Over and over we have been impressed with the faithfulness to the Word of God and with the quality of the programming that is broadcast every day.

The Lord has provided a lovely three bedroom home in the village of Windward for us to rent. The owner lives in the States and the house has been rented on a short term basis over the past several years. These past weeks we have done much cleaning, repairing, and painting. John spent many hours repairing the floor of our container that had been "punched up" by the fork lift that was used to put the container in the yard. He also had to move it about a foot back from where it was placed so that it could be leveled and properly supported.

We have begun to get acquainted with some of the neighbors; they are watching us. We are praying that even this house will be a tool in sharing Christ with the people here.

The people of the village of Windward are proud of their Scottish roots. They are also very strongly Roman Catholic. The first question we were asked by one woman was, "Are you coming to church?" When we replied that we would be going to Windward Bible Church, she looked at us in total disbelief. The people may be religious, but they know nothing of the saving power of Christ in their lives.

After visiting the three fundamental churches here on Carriacou (The Gospel Hall, Open Door Baptist, and Windward Bible Church), we have become a part of the Windward Bible Church pastored by Walt Robinson. He and his wife Linda carry a heavy burden as they do the work of the ministry there. Sharon has begun teaching the children's class (ages 2-14) on Sunday morning. A hurricane several years ago badly damaged the building where the church had been meeting and the owner was unable to make the needed repairs to the roof. As a result, the church has been meeting in the basement of Pastor Robinson's home. Linda's kitchen serves as the meeting place for the children. The church is in need of larger facilities if it is to continue to grow. There was a team here from TN to hold VBS. Pray for the Word as it was planted and watered in the hearts of those who heard it. There was an average of over 100 children in attendance each day. The final day the children came in spite of flooding rains early that morning. Pastor Robinson suffered from exhaustion and overheating right after the VBS finished. John preached for him that next Sunday as he was resting on doctor's orders. Pray for John as he prepares for the possibility of filling in at another time if needed.

We have also been holding a short service each Sunday morning at a government nursing home. We sing songs together and John reads a Psalm and comments briefly on it and its application to us today. Randy Cornelius usually has this service, but we are helping out while he is in the States for a short furlough. Sharon is also having a teaching time there on Tuesday mornings.

The Harbour Light has been heavily impacted by the escalating price of fuel. Over the past year the cost to run the generator has tripled. Obviously, the support to the station has not kept pace with those increases. The Lord continues to faithfully meet needs so that the bills have been paid. The men are looking into the possibility of a wind powered generator to cut the costs of fuel. The power company is in favor of the idea as they could receive excess power from the system thus helping them offset their shortage of power capacity for Carriacou. Pray for funds to make the wind powered generator a reality.

Each morning the staff of the Harbour Light meets for a time of prayer. We begin that time by quoting the theme verse. Acts 26:18 "I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to the light and from the dominion of Satan to God in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me." (NASB) Pray with us as the message of the Gospel is proclaimed not only 24 hours a day to this Caribbean area, but also worldwide over the internet, that there will be many who will indeed turn from the darkness to the light and from the dominion of Satan to God.

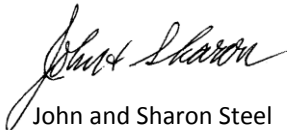
We are thanking God for the good rains He has been sending. The hurricane season is the rainy season here in these islands, and our year's water supply depends on filling cisterns from these rains. We are praying that the hurricanes stay away! We are also thanking God for a peaceful election earlier in July. Pray for the establishment of a stable government as new members of parliament assume their positions.

Prayer items: 1. That we continue to adapt well to the ministry of both the Harbour Light and Windward Bible Church. 2. Wisdom as we seek a vehicle appropriate for our part in the ministries on Carriacou. 3. The Lord's guidance as we prepare for the Senior citizen's ministries, Sharon's part in the Sunday morning children's church, and John's preparation in case he needs to fill in for the pastor.

Thank you for your prayer for us as we have begun settling in here in Carriacou. We trust that you will rejoice with us as we see God give victories in the days ahead.

We plan on more frequent updates by e-mail. If you do not receive this by e-mail, it would help if you could give us an e-mail address to use where you can receive those updates. Or you could arrange for someone with e-mail access to keep you up to date with those messages if you do not have your own address.

In His love and service,



John and Sharon Steel

Home VOIP phone number: (here in Carriacou) 864-292-2932, the same number we had in Greenville.
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