

The Ballinger Family

Church Planting in the islands of St Vincent and the Grenadines

Dear Pastors and Friends

April 2019

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers for the ministry. God is alive and working in the islands. During the month of February, we were blessed to be in 3 missions conferences and now have several new supporting churches. We have also had others that have shared with us their desire to help in the ministry. I left for Bequia February 22 and hit the ground running preparing for the tent meetings. We had visits to make, flyers to give out, repairs on the van and church building, and a few minor things on the gospel tent that had to be done.

Gospel Tent Meetings in Bequia

March 4th we started the first tent meeting with Gospel Light Baptist Church in the harbor. Two weeks later we held the second meeting in Paget Farm for our church, Bible Baptist Church. It was a great 4 weeks of preaching from Pastor Samuel Philbert, Pastor Timothy Mitchall, Pastor Denis Mitchall, Evangelist Chris Hewett, Missionary Alan Berry and myself. Many people heard the Gospel, both under the tent and outside the tent. **Our highest attended night was 94, but the best part was the 15 that were saved! Some who we have been praying for since 2009 that I met during my first trip to Bequia.** Others were prayed for during the meeting and we saw God answer those prayers during those weeks. It was also exciting to see some that were saved in previous meetings praying at the alter with a burden to see God save their family and friends.

Bible Baptist Church, Paget Farm, Bequia.

I had to leave Bequia early because of the death of my wife's grandfather. I was not able to secure a house for us to live in when we return. Right before I left, one of the owners of the house we rent for the church approached me about renting the upstairs for us to live in. This is an answer to prayer because they did not want anyone in the upstairs before. She is also **interested in selling the house** but has to talk to the family first. I do not know a price yet for either renting or buying, but this would be a tremendous opportunity and answer to prayer. We would be able to live upstairs, continue to hold services downstairs, and if we buy, eventually build a church building right by the road.

Boat Ministry

The funds for the boat ministry continue to come in. We have around \$27K, and we continue to pray and look for the right boat. The type that we need runs from \$100K and up. In the last few months we have spoken to several national pastors and missionaries that also need help with Gospel tent meetings, youth camps, church planting and disaster relief in **5 different countries across 10 different islands**. In the Grenadines alone, there are 3 islands God has burdened our hearts for that need churches. We are planning to hold a tent meeting on Canouan or Union before the end of the year. We can do this without a boat, but it will be much more difficult and expensive. We are making plans in spite of the difficulties we may face. To our knowledge, there has not been a missionary or faithful Gospel witness on these islands in over 30 years! If we don't go, who will ?

Family

Thank you for your faithfulness in support of the ministry in the Grenadines. It is truly amazing to see all the open doors and blessings that God has given us over the last few months. The family is doing well, kids are finishing up school for the year and they are all growing too fast. Our support is near 91% . We are praying that we will have all the support by July when we head back to the field. The cost of the flights for the family will be around \$3,000 and we've already had \$500 come in to help with the cost of those. Please help us pray over all these needs and the many opportunities that God is giving us as we endeavor to serve Him.

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