



February 2, 2024

Thank you to each and every one of you who has had a hand in the ministry here in the islands. The last year of furlough was a great time, and I am thankful that we were able to spend time visiting and catching up with many of our supporters. We arrived back on the field on December 6th; two days of travel, 14 bags, a bass, and a dobro (Thank you, Ellis Family!) all arrived with no trouble. Our crates with the new tent meeting supplies arrived a few weeks later. God blessed the process, and we were able to get everything cleared from customs and transported from the main island to Bequia for less than \$600. This should have cost several thousand, but God is good. The family is doing well with the transition. Getting acclimated to the heat and lack of AC is always 'fun,' but there have been several weeks of strong winds that have kept the nights fairly cool.

Bible Baptist Church: The church, in our absence, has continued, but not grown like we had hoped it would. We are taking steps to revamp the work. Myself and Pastor Osie have been teaching for the last month on discipleship. We are also beginning to go back through the community talking with folks about the Gospel. Some days this is going house to house; others days it's just simply walking down the street and meeting with people. We are making plans to hold some evangelistic street meetings in our area and other places around Bequia.

Every Village Project: This project has already started and will continue over the coming year. It's our goal to see that the Gospel is preached in every village in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the help of other pastors and churches here. There are over 100 villages, and the majority of them are without a Gospel witness. We've started by working with Pastor Wilson Joseph in the area of Stubbs. The first week we preached in upper Stubbs (a place the locals call Nineveh); a week later, we each preached two nights in lower Stubbs. We brought over our sound system and generator but were not able to carry the tent yet. Our next meeting will be in an area called Bridgetown. There is a church in this area that was started and is pastored by Pastor Harry who has planted multiple churches here. Even though his health is declining and he has lost physical sight, he still has his eyes on the harvest and we want to assist as much as we can. Other villages to pray for are Diamond, Biabou, Rickland park, and Greigg.

Boat Ministry: The boat ministry will continue as we get settled back in. We have some annual maintenance that we must complete on the boat before we start back using it to travel between islands. I do ask that you help us pray; we are prayerfully considering upgrading to a larger 4 cabin boat that we can live on. Ours is great for travel and short overnight stays, but considering the need to travel between islands we believe this would aid us in ministering between islands, church planting, and evangelistic meetings.

Vehicle: We mentioned in our last letter about the need for a larger vehicle. We've found a van that will work well, and have put a down payment on it to secure it. Please help us pray for the remaining \$17,000 needed to purchase the van by the end of February.

Again, I want to thank each of you that prays for us and supports the ministry here. Your sacrifice does not go unnoticed, and we are thankful for what God has done and what he will do here in the Caribbean.

A servant of Jesus Christ,

David Ballinger & Family

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"THE LORD HAD CALLED US FOR TO PREACH THE GOSPEL UNTO THEM"

The BALLINGER Family

CHURCH PLANTING ON THE ISLANDS OF ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES



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I would like to ask for your help in praying about the need for a new ministry van here in the islands. Our current van has served us well for the last 8 years, but it's reaching a point where it can no longer meet our needs .

The van will serve two main purposes:

1) We will use it to pick up people for church. Our current van can hold 7 people, but during Christmas, we had 17 squeezed in. We usually avoid this due to steep hills and rough roads. With too much weight the van will not stop or will not be capable enough to pull the hills. We need a van that can carry more people for church, also to help us with groups coming down to help with different evangelistic meetings.

2) With the Every Village Project and other tent meetings being planned we need to move tents, chairs, and sound equipment from place to place. Our current van can only fit part of it requiring multiple trips. The larger van would allow us to move the whole tent setup and people more effectively. This will save us time and money for each meeting.

While we considered a truck, we found a van that will work just as well and will be available in February. If we opt for a truck or another van it wouldn't arrive until May/June. These vans are common in St Vincent, and parts are easily accessible. The price of the van is \$25,000. We have already made the down payment of \$8,000 but will still need \$17,000 by the end of February.



2018 NISSAN NV350
 MILEAGE : 65,000KM (40,000 miles)
 TRANSMISSION : AT
 ENGINE : 2500 Cc DIESEL

For a price comparison, there is a 2017 model with 160,000 KM already on the island priced at \$29,000. One local church just bought a similar van from Japan, and it will be \$24,000 once it arrives. We've tried to make our current 2001 Toyota Noah van work, but after the last 8 years of the rough roads and harsh environment we must make a change for safety and efficiency here.

A servant of Jesus Christ,
David Ballinger & Family



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