

GFN Update

From John and Sue Bartels in Grenada

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Dear Family and Friends,

The past two months have been quite interesting with new twists and turns drawing us ever nearer to our goals of broadcasting the Good News to the world! New programming has begun to be edited for broadcast, new volunteers have arrived to support our upcoming construction effort, and we have been quite happy to be able to be a support to two other start-up ministries as well. One ministry just received a large boat that will enable them to do medical missionary work on the Amazon in Brazil and another ministry received a donation to enable them to stream Christian video programming on the web. The Lord constantly keeps us busy serving Him and He continues to bless us in the process. We trust that you will enjoy reading about what the Lord has enabled us to do and that He will bless you today as well!

Sincerely,
John and Sue Bartels

Summary

Project Highlights:

- After a bit of research on appropriate video compression bit rates and setup details Ryan (our media volunteer) is all set up with the necessary equipment and guidelines to enable him to begin editing video for broadcast.
- With David Gates, the key players of the Brazil Medical Launch project, the 50' Catamaran (that will serve as the medical launch) and the boat donor all in Grenada we were privileged to be a part of the birth of a new program! It was fun to be involved in the project and to help out with creating a documentary program that we hope will be edited soon.
- In December we spent our grocery money to buy tires for the van which had reached an unsafe condition (they were falling apart and the steel belts were sticking out). Later that same day we learned of a donation that enabled us to buy food for the rest of the month. God is good!
- Completed all the interior electrical wiring and the new ground system for the station house where our new volunteer family lives and where we will begin broadcasting from.
- Thankful that we received a small donation that enabled us to place an order for a new Video Tape Recorder since the one we had failed.
- I had the privilege of spending some time with the donor of the boat for the Brazil Medical Launch before he left Grenada. I learned a lot about the boat and was able to help Brad and Lina Mills (project directors) to become familiar with it once they arrived a couple of weeks later. I also enjoyed helping to prepare the boat for service. It felt good to be able

to make a difference and I needed those few days of variety from my usual labors. God always provides for our needs!

- We were thrilled to pick up our new volunteer family at the airport! Tony Beard (who has accepted our construction position) and his family arrived on January 9th. Tony will be overseeing the construction project and helping out with constructing lots of needed furnishings and sets for the TV station and studio. (See attached pictures)
- Spent time with Tony discussing the plans for the project and plans necessary to finish the temporary TV / Radio station (including finishing desks, shelves, sound proofing the radio room, fix windows for TV station room, partition the room from the house, etc.). We made lists of needed materials and then set off to fill them (which Tony learned takes a lot of time here). Tony has been steadily completing those tasks that will enable us to begin broadcasting from our temporary "Station House".
- Fought off wood ants and big red ants that had invaded our stored plywood and purple heart wood which is destined for use in the construction of the TV station. I think we saved most of it. God is good!
- Ryan (our media volunteer) succumbed to an infection that required him to go home for medical help and recuperation. He is doing better and we are praying for a complete recovery and speedy return to Grenada.
- It felt really good to be able to assist another project in the last month. David Gates gave my contact info to a ministry that had just received a large donation and needed advice on a video server and related equipment. We have exchanged many emails since then and now they are projecting being on the air via the internet in a few short weeks! God is good! You can learn more about their organization at: <http://www.creatorscall.org/> Once they are on the air via the internet their next goal is to air via satellite to the world!

This is the same vision we have here in Grenada and we believe our opportunity is coming very soon!

[He hath made every thing beautiful in his time...](#)

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Family News:

- Sarah sang 1 Corinthians 13 for a friend's wedding. She did such a spectacular job! Later the bride told us she had to look over to see if it was really Sarah singing or if it was a pre-recorded song! We are really proud of Sarah's God given talent that she shares with others. (See attached picture)
- We were so thankful to a church member who gave us money to buy the kids Christmas presents! God truly does care for the small things. We took the kids to spend their Christmas money at the ABC book store. They were so excited and surprised to have that opportunity! They really thought hard about which books to select. It was fun to see.
- We spent Christmas morning helping a neighbor continue to dig out from the effects of hurricane Ivan (See attached picture). Some still have it quite hard and it felt good to help someone in need. We stopped around lunch time, got cleaned up and spent the afternoon at a church member's house who had a pool. We enjoyed relaxing, eating and of course the kids loved the pool!
- Took the kids to Fort Fredrick (which was built in the late 1700's by the French) to watch the New Year's fireworks. We enjoyed seeing several fireworks displays from that vantage point.
- We celebrated Steven's 11th birthday on January 11th! He is growing up so fast!

Prophetic Time and Our Lazarus Experience

In late 2005 we sent our completed plans for the TV and radio stations to 5 contractors requesting bids. We then selected the contractor that was going to build the

TV station and in faith made arrangements to sign the contract. At the same time we learned that a donation had been pledged that would pay for our entire project! Marveling at God's goodness we signed the contract and began construction. (See attached pictures)

Two weeks into construction the Lord made it clear that we would go through a Lazarus experience. Up to this point the project had been steadily advancing. Could it be true that our project would "die", we wondered? True to the word of God, our funding dried up and construction stopped.

Recently we have come to realize that there are more details to the Lazarus experience that we strongly believe applies to our project. First of all the Lord did make it clear that our resurrection from the Lazarus experience would be most glorious. We have been hanging on to that with great anticipation as you might imagine! Secondly we have come to realize that Lazarus (see John chapter 11) was dead for four days. Now if you are a student of prophecy, you know that in prophecy a prophetic day is equal to a literal year (see Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6 for a couple of the many examples given in the Bible). From a study of Biblical timing we also know that part of a day or part of a year was counted as a whole day or a whole year when adding time (Jesus was in the grave 3 days: part of Friday, all of Sabbath, and part of Sunday). So when we apply these same principals to our experience, we arrive at the following: We died in 2005, remained dead in 2006 and 2007, and will be resurrected in 2008!

As we look around us, our level of anticipation at our soon resurrection is growing. There are many signs that the Lord is about to keep His word to us that He would provide for our every need on this project. This new understanding is just another clue that what He said is about to come true. Thank you for joining with us in thanking the Lord for what He is about to do!

[But this He \[Jesus\] said to test him, *for He Himself knew what He would do.*](#)
John 6:6

New Volunteer Family Arrives

We are excited to announce that the Beard family arrived from Ronan, Montana, on January 9th! Tony and his wife Nicole were building and selling homes in Montana and, in addition, Tony worked as an EMT for Ronan Ambulance Inc. Their children are Chantelle (13), Tiffany (10), Sean (9), and Samantha (2).

The Beards felt a calling to do mission work. They read the book Mission Pilot which tells the story of David Gates and his early missionary adventures and feeling inspired, decided to test the waters. They sent an application to Gospel Ministries International with a primary interest in doing medical work and near the bottom of the application included a small amount of information on their construction experience. In great need of an experienced contractor, we zeroed in on the construction experience and responded right away. Tony really wanted to do medical work but he told the Lord that as long as his two houses sold he would accept that as a confirmation to the call to service

The Lord sold Tony and Nicole's two houses in one week! Amazed they began to pack and as they were preparing to move Tony said, "All one has to do to find out if there is a Devil is to accept a call to mission service!" Obstacles challenged them continually and then one day when Tony returned home after a weekend outing he found that a washer hose had broken and flooded his entire house. All the flooring in the whole house had to be replaced! That obstacle prevented Tony from completing the second house within the time frame specified by the contract and the sale fell through. In spite of this setback, Tony and Nicole knew that the Lord was calling them and moved forward in faith trusting that the Lord will sell their home at just the right time.

They are now settled here in Grenada and beginning to do the final preparations for broadcasting from a temporary location until the permanent broadcast facilities are

completed. As soon as construction of the permanent buildings begins, Tony will work with the contractor to ensure the buildings meet all the specifications necessary for production and broadcast. During and following the construction phase Tony will be building all sorts of desks, shelves, and production sets to support the project.

We believe that the Lord has provided the services of Tony and his family at just the right time in this project. Stay tuned for exciting developments soon!

Extreme “ _____ ”

Extreme Shortness of Time
Extreme War
Extreme Love
Extreme Risk
Extreme Giving
Extreme Purity

The titles above are sermon titles given by David Gates in December of last year at the GYC meetings (Generation of Youth for Christ) in Minneapolis. They are listed as “Extreme Missions” Part 1 through 6 and you can listen to them online at the link below. I can’t recommend them enough for those who want to be ready and involved in proclaiming the soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our family has been truly inspired and yours will too!

http://www.audioverse.org/viewrecordings/?filters%5bseries_id%5d=69&filters%5blabel%5d=GYC%202007%20-%20David%20Gates%20-%20Extreme%20Missions%3A%20Taking%20the%20Gospel%20to%20New%20Frontiers&orderby=date&sort=ASC

From the front lines in Grenada, may God bless you today!

With all our love,
John, Sue, Steven, and Sarah Bartels

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(Betsy receives donations for many different ministries within Gospel Ministries International. If the Lord has placed on your heart the desire to send a financial gift, please include a separate note indicating, "For the Grenada Family Network project". Thank you!!)

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