

# Southeast Caribbean Dispatch

November 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

Well here it is November and we are still in the States. We took a fast trip to California last month due to family illness. We are now planning to go the National Missionary Convention in Peoria, Ill Nov 19 -22.

Many of you are probably wondering why we are not in Barbados. We too have wondered this. We are ready to go, the house is sold, everything is ready, and while we are waiting, we are living out of suitcases.

Here is our last commutation from Kenroy in Barbados:

*Hi Orvel,*

*No one at the immigration department knows when your work permit will be issued. We have asked the chief immigration officer and several others in that department but no one knows. As I told you before the permits are now being issued from the Prime Minister's office. We have a problem with a lot of persons living in Barbados illegally and the Prime Minister has clamped down on it and is trying to stop it from happening. Stephanie called yesterday and the officer told her that it should be ready in two weeks but she had said that two months ago. Some things here take forever. We bought a church bus and it was sitting in the port for two months now and we still have not been able to get it cleared.*

*You need to prepare yourself mentally for ministry in Barbados. It is not like America at all. If you come with an American mentality you are going to get very frustrated and accomplish very little. God is using this waiting period to prepare you, don't miss what God wants to teach you through all of this. Whenever you get to Barbados there are going to be lots of ministry opportunities awaiting you. Allow God to use you while you are still there.*

*Things at Church Village are going really well at the moment. The church is growing, there is a level of excitement among the people. We are establishing an eldership. Say hi to Kandi and keep praying about the work permit. If you guys have the funds you can come down to Barbados and just keep applying for extensions until the work permit is granted. When you get the work permit then you can fly back to the USA and ship your stuff. I will keep you posted.*

*Kenroy Clarke*

In our waiting for our work permits from Barbados, I have had more time to read and study more of God's word. In studying Matthew 4, when the Spirit led Christ into the desert before He

started His ministry, He was tested. I believe that God and His spirit have led Kandi and me into the desert to test and fully prepare us before we start our ministry in earnest. "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matt 4:1). There seems to be a common teaching going around today that says if you do all the right things in your Christian life, you will be blessed and never experience problems in your life. I feel that this teaching is not correct. The Bible says that we will encounter many problems during this lifetime.

We see this as we read Paul and Peter's letters. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. One wonders why God would lead His Son into the desert to be tempted. Why would God lead us into the desert? The desert is a proving ground. The desert is a place where God has placed us to learn something. It is the place where we can determine if we will truly live by every Word of God, not by bread alone.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the desert, Jesus responded to every temptation by citing what the Word said about that temptation. This is also the way we must respond to the temptations that are brought our way. We must have the Word of God written into our hearts in order to know how to respond to any given situation. God's Word says, "The truth shall make you free." It is knowing and doing the will of God that allows us to live free from the temptation of evil.

The desert is often the place of silence. This seems to be the place we are in, not knowing what God's will is for us. So we wait on Him. However, it is also a place where the devil will speak loudest because we are in a place of weakness and the comforts of our normal life are not to be found. Satan seems to have thrown many obstacles in our path, family illness, and even doubts of what we are to do. God is in control and He gives us the strength to withstand the temptations that come in the desert place, and they have come. We do see it for what it is and are standing firm in our times of tribulation. We pray that His will, will be done in all things. Please keep us in your prayers.

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Blessings in Christ,

*Orvel & Kandi*