

# WISE

Windward Islands School of Evangelism

## THE DREAM LIVES ON



A little over forty years ago, on the island of St. Vincent, WISE conducted its very first graduation ceremony. That year, like this year, there were two graduates. But that's where the similarities end. That year the grads were the first two students to come to WISE, two young men from Jamaica. This year there were two young ladies, fittingly one from Jamaica and one from St. Vincent, where the school would go on to be located for 35 years. That year there were only three teachers, whereas this year there were six. That year there were almost no outside visitors, but this year there were representatives from five different local churches, including the preachers from all five. That year the school was in a rented house, but this year the ceremony was in the lovely chapel building on our own spacious campus here in Barbados. That year was the first stepping stone to a dream of multiplying workers and Christian servants throughout the Caribbean. This year the two graduates take their place alongside the over 300 others who have graduated over the years.

The school has been through a lot during these years. It moved from St. Lucia to St. Vincent in the midst of the very first year, and then eventually on to Barbados. It has weathered natural disasters, pandemics, changes in staff, the passing of two founders, opposition, and many struggles. But God has held the college in his hands the whole time.

We have often commented that the two ladies who graduated this year, Oshene and Stevernique, had an experience unlike any others who have ever come to WISE. First there was the pandemic. When we were ready to start school in September 2020, there were no new students to form an incoming class, because the pandemic restrictions made travel so difficult. But these two finally made it, even though they started a bit late. As if the pandemic wasn't enough, in April 2021 Barbados was covered in volcanic ash as a result of the eruption in St. Vincent. And then in June, we were struck by the first hurricane to hit Barbados in over 60 years. Aside from these things, there were the usual ups and downs. But these two persevered. As noted in the graduation ceremony, had it not been for them, there would have been no graduating class at all this year. But although the numbers have been small, WISE has not failed to have a graduation service nor have we shut our doors at any time since the pandemic started.

So yes, the dream lives on. WISE has had students from Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nigeria (yes, the one in Africa), St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, and even the United States. All the while WISE has depended on the financial and prayer support of like-minded individuals and churches who believe in this mission of training Christian leaders for the Caribbean (and even beyond).

**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING GOD TO USE YOU TO TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY!**



# ON TO SUMMER TERM AND BEYOND

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Now that our graduates have departed, there are four students (three Haitians, one Nigerian) who will be continuing on and will become the second-year class. (They will be joined in September by another student who needs to complete terms four and five in order to graduate a year from now.) The students are enjoying a one week break between terms, as summer term starts April 25. We have some visitors who came down from the US for graduation and have been working very hard throughout the week on various projects: fixing tile in a dorm room, building a bridge across the drain ditch, sprucing up the rock garden, cleaning and sorting, and various other things. Thank you to Kenny, Tia, and Cheyenne! What a wonderful blessing to have them here, especially these days when we are a bit short-staffed. Our students have been working with them all week, throwing their backs into it. It makes a great change of pace from studies for them. We are grateful for their serving spirit.

Things are looking up for new student enrollment this fall. As of now, six students have already been accepted, another who was unable to make it in time last year will most likely be coming, two others are in the process of having their applications finalized, three more will be interviewed next week, and there may still be others. (Among those accepted are three more from Nigeria.) We are looking forward to our enrollment picking back up as the pandemic restrictions loosen. Please pray for all these processes: for wisdom to make good decisions about accepting students, for visa approvals from the Barbados Immigration Department, and for students to be able to navigate their preparations and eventually, their travel.



## COMINGS AND GOINGS

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- We said good-bye to Lucas Ness, who returned to Colorado the day after graduation. Lucas and his wife Mikayla had been serving with us for a couple years, and Lucas had been here by himself since February, before rejoining his family in the States.
- We will have a couple from the US visiting in early May. He is interested in doing some teaching at WISE in the future, and if all works out, they may be here in January.
- We are scheduled to have three visiting teachers from the US and Canada to help out in our summer term classes. That is exciting.
- Our Executive Director search continues. God is working. Please continue to keep this in your prayers.

## HELP NEEDED

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We are in need of help this summer. We need an individual or a couple, or perhaps different individuals or couples at different times, who can spend several weeks or a month or even a couple months being on campus. We're looking for folks who have practical skills and who can help with many of the things that need to be done around campus, as well as being a presence and an encouragement among our students. If you're interested, it's not too late to let us know. Please send an email to [Jeff.Robertson@wisebiblecollege.org](mailto:Jeff.Robertson@wisebiblecollege.org). Or you can WhatsApp to 417-691-6517.

