

From: David Caskey <flyingpreacher@mindspring.com>
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The work in the Islands is going well. More and more of the daily tasks are being carried out by the various congregations. Bible Studies are being held and conversions are ongoing. It is thrilling after more than 30 years to see the brethren in the Islands doing their own work and reaching out in the various communities. There are still many struggles going on in the central and southern Islands. Recovery from a major hurricane is a long drawn out process. Water wells were filled with salt water and sewage from the septic tanks, communications are almost non existent. Banks are still closed. Food stores have very little and most of the people do not have money to buy food. Over the years they have eaten from the "land and the sea". When the salt water covered the land it killed many of the fruit trees and destroyed the gardens. Many of the boats that were used for fishing were wrecked. Livestock was scattered and the crabs that many used for food were killed. Roofs have been repaired on the houses of members in Long Island and mud and sea water has been cleaned out of the homes so that the brethren can live in their houses. About 40 men from other congregations have been involved in clean up and construction. They have carried materials from Nassau on the mail boat and guarded the materials from being stolen. The Church is meeting in a building. I am trying to find out the details, but communication into and out of the Island is sparse and slow. I hope to get more information very soon. We have been sending money for food and bottled water via the Church in Long Island and Courtney Chandler is able to use couriers from the bank to get the money into the right hands. Food and water is being shipped from Nassau. Another big need in supplies is rubbing alcohol. This is used for bathing when water is contaminated. We are also giving many Bibles as most lost theirs in the flood waters. After food and water run out, biggest request is for Bibles. We have been able to care for the members and many of the older people on the Island. The government has done a little to help, but not near what is needed. Lincoln Young in Eleuthera is reaching out to those in the congregation and the Island who are in need.

We conducted a mission meeting in Clewiston, Florida. This time of the year there are a lot of brethren who come to Clewiston from the north to fish in the Lake. They are a great encouragement to the little struggling

congregation and many of them have joined forces with us in the Islands over the years. Last Sunday we spoke at West Broward in Ft. Lauderdale. Terry Casey the preacher, suffered another heart attack and is recovering. We always enjoy our time with this congregation and have opportunity to visit also with a number of families from the Bahamas who attend there. We are scheduled to be back on April 10th for their annual Mission Day and special contribution for Missions. This congregation supports our work and the work of Lincoln Young in Eleuthera.

After April 10th we plan to schedule appointments with supporting congregations in Texas and make our annual trip to visit and report. We are so thankful for the prayers and contributions to the work in the Islands. Checks can be made to Bahama Mission Church of Christ and sent: David Caskey-Missions, Gulf Coast Church of Christ, 9550 Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. Ft. Myers, Florida 33966.

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