

BLUEFIELDS NEWS. JUNE 2025

Greetings dear family and friends. Well the rainy season has hit us with a vengeance. I thought the Saturday lunch club last week would be very sparse because of the torrents of rain. My first thoughts were 'who would want to turn out on a day like this?' But to my surprise 31 showed up. I then realised that many of these people are living rough, so they are already out in it and the weekly lunch club is a haven for them all. So despite them sitting in rather wet clothes, they enjoyed the new menu we were trying out and their games of bingo afterwards.

This is our back yard where we hold the lunch club!



Walking conditions are pretty bad in this weather and I do try to go careful, but I did manage to slip in the mud last week. I had a soft landing so didn't hurt myself, but got soaked through.

Getting our clothes dried is a problem and if wet too long, then they smell and get mould spots on them and metal items tend to go rusty. But there is a positive side to the rain and that is wells get filled up, which during the dry season have gone empty.

The man who has agreed to dig the next well for me says he needs 3 days of dry weather to get the job completed. This is still possible as the seasons seem to be so mixed up these past few years, we might even see the sun.

Recently we had a freak tornado which played havoc with many peoples property. Part of the roof blew off one of our schools, so the children had to receive work sheets to complete at home. Within a week, it was safe enough for them to return to school while the repairs continued.



We've also had an earth tremor which I slept through. Pastor Ed's house is quite strong, being made of cement, so no damage was done there. It did wake many people up through the night as their houses made a sudden move, but very little harm was done. The hurricane season lasts until about October.



We are suffering a lot of power cuts and not just because of the inclement weather. Much work is being done to repair and improve the lines. If it is a planned cut, then we are notified because these ones last anything from 5 to 21 hours. We get more unexpected ones, which can last from 5 minutes to 5 hours.

No wonder we get so many cuts!

Did you know rats love soap? When ours is getting quite small in the house, I take it to our building for the lunch club. We use smaller pieces because quite often it gets stolen! I left such a piece in a bag on one of the shelves and the following week when I went in, I thought it strange to see the bag on the floor, minus the soap. I checked on the shelf to see if it was there, which it wasn't, but I found a brand new bar of soap, which was one of our bingo prizes, with the corner eaten away. I guess we've got the cleanest rats in Bluefields!



Our sponsored children have received their first school report and many of them are excelling in their work and gaining the title 'Student of Excellence'. We also have the slow learners, but I remind myself, if they didn't have a scholarship with us, then they probably wouldn't be studying at all. When parents come to me asking if I have any spare scholarships and I have to answer that I don't, they then start assuring me of how clever their child is. My reply is that how bright a child is doesn't depend on them receiving a scholarship, every child has the equal right to be educated. One of our students, who we have sponsored for about 15 years, will graduate from university very soon with a degree in Administration of Ports & Airports. How proud we are of Keysi for her sheer determination to succeed. She is hopeful that she will manage to find a job in Bluefields and help support her family, but realises she might have to travel further away to find employment.

Mother's Day is a big celebration here and I always like to pay a visit to the maternity home where women travel from way out communities to deliver their babies. I made up 40 bags of gifts for mother and baby and came home with only one. There were 3 sets of twins, so naturally those mothers got 2 bags each. I had been given lots of small red crochet hearts from a friend in the UK and each woman was given one. They were delighted to hold their hearts up while I took a photo. It was a lovely afternoon starting with a short devotion then a free raffle. We then gave out the packages, hearts, cartons of juice and packets of biscuits. I had the joy of holding one on the sets of twins who were 9 days old. Before we left, many women asked for prayer which ended the afternoon very appropriately.



Hopefully in my next news I will be able to show you photos of the latest well, the much needed items which have just been ordered for the dental hospital, the new swings which have eventually arrived and waiting to be fitted, having been shipped from America, of people being blessed with wellingtons and possibly the date which I will be receiving my MBE after my return home in September.

I will say goodbye for now, thanking you all once again for your support in the projects I get involved with, your prayers and your interest in what I get up to and also my personal well-being.

With love from *Margaret*