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Grand Cayman is a mere speck on the map

DID YOU KNOW?

- The island of Grand Cayman is 22 miles long and 8 miles at its widest
- The parsonage is located in the Seven Mile Corridor which is only 1 mile wide
- The parsonage sits at 19 feet above sea level
- Hurricanes usually bypass the Cayman Islands to the north of the islands
- The last hurricane of note was cat. 4 Ivan in 2004
- During the flood that Ivan had brought with it, Grand Cayman had been temporarily lost from radar!
- The Islands' government is extremely well prepared for disasters like this. Their follow-up services are really efficient too.
- Current favorite Spanish word/phrase: "el huracán" – meaning "the hurricane".



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Hurricane Grace visits Grand Cayman



The Pauls in their backyard on the morning after hurricane Grace had passed through.

Nothing graceful about Grace!



Grace made landfall in the early hours of August 17. We could hear the wind as it whipped around the house. "Ah, I guess that's Grace!" Power and water went out – and we were immediately thankful for the tip to have the bathtub filled with water for "washing and flushing". We decided the perishables in the fridge would need to be eaten first and made a mental note of the order in which we'd eat them. Interesting what things you discuss during a hurricane!

In the meantime, cat. 1 Grace was wielding its fury around us, uprooting or snapping

trees in half, blowing shingles off here and there, loosening a few boats that hadn't been moored well enough and sending them adrift, causing minor flooding, and causing some damage to houses. Some waterfront properties had reported some water damage. But we can honestly say that we have been spared all of that, bar some tree damage and potentially minor damage to the roof where part of a tree had fallen onto it. Our little garden shed was covered with snapped-off branches but even that hasn't been damaged. Only the door had been blown open!



But the Grace of God Abounds!



Please Pray for:



- Wisdom to “think outside the box”, to find a parsonage to best suit not only us but also the mission in the long run
- Banner-makers to volunteer to make banners for Safe Harbour (see Aug. News)
- More to return to church
- People’s hearts to be opened to the invitation to attend bible study and bring their kids to Sunday school.



Give thanks for:

- God’s protection during hurricane Grace
- Damage contained mostly to trees and vegetation
- People’s faith and trust in Christ

Praise God for:

- The many congregations and individuals who encourage support and pray for us and the mission.
- We thank YOU personally for all of YOUR support, prayers and encouragement. We LOVE receiving your notes and emails! They are so uplifting and encouraging!



Left: the row of trees on the east side of the parsonage was blown over with no damage to the roof. Right: Leslie and Michele, longtime members of Safe Harbour, standing in their flooded backyard.

There’s so much to be thankful for!



This really big tree used to cover a good portion of the yard. It is nothing short of a miracle that it didn’t fall on our house or the neighbor’s house but into an empty lot behind the neighbor’s house. It didn’t even touch their fence!

Thanks, and praise be to God that the two of us, all members of Safe Harbour and all Caymanians had been kept safe and dry. All around we’ve seen people cleaning up with a smile – they know it could’ve been much worse!

Checking on Safe Harbour members

Gerald had been in constant contact with them all throughout the storm, making sure all were ok and had what they needed. He also offered scripture and prayers of comfort.

The day after we drove around, checking on members of Safe Harbour that had been hit harder than most. Leslie and Michele’s yard was flooded, and a storage container filled with household goods broken open. Fortunately, they could save most things.

Prayers and Songs of Thanksgiving

During the Divine Service on the Sunday after hurricane Grace we thanked and praised God for His protection throughout the storm and prayed for those in Mexico in Grace’s path. We pray also for those in the USA suffering from the consequences of Grace, Henri and Ida. Lord have mercy.

Soli Deo Gloria

“Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” Ps. 28:6-7

Thanks be to God we can give thanks in all things!

- Your partners in mission,
Gerald and Heidi Paul



To support the LCMS through the work of Gerald and Heidi Paul, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and marked “Support of Gerald Paul.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on his online giving page at lcms.org/gerald.paul.

You can also send your gifts to our friends at Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

