

THE BERNSDORFFS

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MISSIONARIES TO
TRINIDAD
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PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN



The era of piracy in the Caribbean began in the 1500s and slowly phased out in the 1830s after the Caribbean navies began combating them. Today, the pirates of the Caribbean are making a come back. I'm not talking about a Hollywood movie. I'm talking about Venezuelan pirates that have exchanged ships for speed boats and swords for machine guns. As you may know, Trinidad lies seven miles off the coast of Venezuela where there has been political unrest and crisis. Over 40,000 Venezuelans have fled to Trinidad for refuge. This is quite a bit if you consider Trinidad's population of 1.3 million. We now carry gospel tracts in Spanish because we run into them every day. Many of them are just looking for safety, food, and a future. Unfortunately, there are others who are not. There has been a huge rise in human trafficking since they have made their way here. Evil and deceitful men have also tricked many of the Venezuelan women to come for work, but only to find out, after they get here, they have been lured into a prostitution ring. As thousands are making their way to the island, they have also invaded the waters with piracy. Trinidadian fishermen are being kidnapped and held for ransom, murdered, robbed, and chased by Venezuelan pirates. The fishing industry is scared to death of these new pirates of the Caribbean. Faster engines are now put on the fishing boats in attempt to out run the pirates. Many are fishing at night so they wont be seen, making sure not to shine any light. As missionaries here, we want to do just the opposite. We want our light to shine as we fish for men. *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to **give the light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* (II Corinthians 4:6)



OUR MISSIONARY VISA

Trinidad allows missionaries to serve three years at a time. After the three years are up, we are required to stay out of the country for a whole year before replying for another three. The problem this poses is that we would have to drop all ministries and put things on hold for a year. This is what we were expecting, but by God's grace, we were granted a **one year minister's permit** so we don't have to leave. Giving this permit is not a normal thing, but an answer to prayer! This has allowed us to continue the work and strengthen our foundation. Instead of taking a whole year, we took a mini-furlough and were able to visit a few supporting churches. We plan on taking another mini-furlough in the future.

CHARITY BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

The Bible College is off to a great start with six classes running this semester: The Pentateuch, Gospel of John, Pastorology, General Epistles, Financial Stewardship, and The Mindful Woman. We have four foreign students that have come to study with us, one being a first timer from Guyana. I have particularly enjoyed teaching through the Gospel of John. Each class I choose someone to shout **HALLELUJAH** every time the gospel mentions a location. We then locate it on our Bible map. It has certainly kept us awake and alert as to where we are in the text. Next week we will have "Taco Tuesday" for our snack between classes. Mexican food is one thing that most all of them have never had. I really enjoy bringing new things to the table. One thing is for sure, we are feasting off the word of God! The students all have a hungry spirit to learn.



Praise the Lord!
There were three
teen girls saved
today in the
public school!

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Thank you for your
support and prayers!

Matt Bernsdorff