



Turning the Page on a Successful Year

Last year (2010) marked the Bequia Mission's fortieth year of providing help and hope to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; a milestone I expect that few charities, especially those funded only by donations and run entirely by volunteers, can hope to attain.

Those of us currently serving on the Mission's board of directors, or who are active with our shipping or project teams, are always extremely appreciative of the notes of encouragement, cheques, and bequests (some from new members, but many from friends who have supported the Mission since it's very early days with the Armstrongs) that seem to find their way into our rural mailbox each month. In the "From the Mission Mailbag" section you will find a sampling of the correspondence we have received since the last newsletter.

We are also pleased to introduce a new feature in this newsletter, one which honours a "Bequia Mission Champion", an outstanding volunteer or supporter who has gone "above and beyond" in terms of

dedicated service to the Mission. In this edition, we pay tribute to a most deserving couple, Chesley and Betty Fulton of Huntsville, Ontario. We thank the Fultons for their unwavering support, and invite readers to nominate individuals as potential recipients of this distinction in the future.

In addition to celebrating our past, we are also very committed to securing the future of the Bequia Mission, so that its longstanding humanitarian work in the islands can continue. To this end, we are always looking for ways to reach out to new friends, volunteers and supporters - which is why in this newsletter, you will find an update from Linda Sagan Harrier about the Mission's new Medical Projects Committee, an account of the very successful AED (automated external defibrillator) campaign initiated by Kurt Cordice, Mark Zippel's update on the "Think Recycle" fund-raiser, and a promising new partnership with the Mary A. Tidlund Foundation, on a project which the children of Bequia will find particularly exciting.

The Bequia Mission was founded in 1970 under the leadership of The Reverend Ron Armstrong and his wife, June. It is a voluntary, non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to the support of educational, medical, and social concerns in Bequia and the Windward Islands. The Mission was incorporated as a registered Canadian charitable organization in 1981.

How to reach us:

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And so, like a good book which the reader just can't seem to put down, intriguing new chapters continue to unfold for the Mission. On behalf of the board of directors, and the entire Bequia Mission family, I extend my

very best wishes to you and yours for a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. Thanks for being such an important part of the story thus far!



Gerry Bird
President, The Bequia Mission



Bequia Mission Electronics Recycling Program: 2011 Update by Mark Zippel

Mission volunteers and friends continue to support the electronics recycling program in partnership with "Think Recycle." To date, in 2011, recycling used printer cartridges, cell phones and digital cameras has generated **\$190.25** in revenue for the Mission and diverted **309.17 lbs** of waste from landfill. In addition to earning revenue and diverting waste from landfill, our participation in the Think Recycle program has resulted in another two trees being planted on behalf of the Mission.

New to the program is the acceptance of Ipods, Tablets and Laptop computers. With the introduction of these additional items, we're hoping to ramp up collection, generating much needed income for Mission projects, with landfill diversion as an added benefit.

If anyone is interested in starting a collection program on behalf of the Mission, we would gladly assist you with the process. For information please contact me at 705-740-0587 or markzippel@bequiamission.ca.

The Shipping News by Sandra Bird

Following the November 6 Bequia Mission Board of Directors meeting at our home in Lakefield, those in attendance cheerfully rolled up their sleeves and devoted a couple of hours to packing a shipment for two of our charitable partners in St. Vincent. Included were 25 boxes of dried foodstuffs for Sister Zita and the children at the Bread of Life Home, whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS, and over 50 boxes of used summer clothing for the House of Hope AIDS Hospice in Kingstown, St. Vincent.

The majority of these goods had been generously donated by Mission supporters, some of whom had also sorted, packed, and/or delivered them to us! Thanks to the entire shipping team, as well as to our friend and neighbour, Michael Eatson, Manager of Peterborough Volkswagen, for the loan of a weather-tight, covered trailer which made delivering the goods so much easier and more cost-effective than in the past, and to Ken Chitolie, owner of KLC/Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines. Once delivered to

the KLC warehouse in Scarborough, Ken and his staff allow Mission goods to be shipped to St. Vincent And The Grenadines at a reduced rate of \$4.50 per cubic foot.

Our main annual shipment will be packed and delivered to KLC early in the New Year. Typically, it consists of anywhere up to 300 boxes of supplies for about 20 children's homes, schools and pre-schools, AIDS

hospices, orphanages, homes for the elderly, and hospitals, in both Bequia and St. Vincent. With our once spacious basement already piled high with boxes, plastic tubs, wheelchairs, walkers, and garbage bags full of donated summer clothes, it will be a busy couple of days. But as they have proved so often in the past, our dedicated team of volunteer "super shippers" will be more than equal to the task!



Shipping in style with a shiny new trailer on loan Peterborough Volkswagen.



KLC owner, Ken Chitolie (right) & Warehouse Manager Bill Mascoll, with part of our most recent shipment.

The Mary A. Tidlund Foundation and Bequia Mission - Partners in Play! By Gerry Bird

A few weeks ago, Christine Anderson (who lives in Bequia for part of the year and serves on the Mission's Medical Projects Committee) introduced us via email to Mary Tidlund. Along with her husband David, Christine spends the other half of the year at their home in Canmore, Alberta, where Mary is a friend and neighbour. In early November, Sandra and I met Mary for lunch in downtown Toronto and we were immediately captivated by her warmth and passion for helping people.

We learned that Mary had been adopted at the age of 7 by a loving Calgary family. Along with 3 other adopted children, she had shared her childhood with at least 40

other foster children that her parents nurtured and loved. Mary knew at a young age the importance of giving and receiving, and these values helped shape her adult life as well. After working for a number of years in Saskatchewan, as President and CEO of a publicly traded oil and gas company, she left her business career behind and in 1998 founded the Mary A. Tidlund Charitable Foundation. (www.tidlundfoundation.com).

Having recently visited St. Vincent And The Grenadines herself, Mary was interested in the work of the Bequia Mission. Upon hearing our story, she was impressed with the Mission's long history of humanitarian

work in SVG, and in particular, with our effective partnership over the past nine years with the Bequia Mission Local Committee (BMLC).

Apart from obvious differences in size, as well as the scope of projects we're able to tackle (the Tidlund Foundation is now active in 18 countries!), the two organizations share a lot of common ground. Like the Bequia Mission, Mary's charity focuses primarily on health, education, and the alleviation of poverty. In addition, the very professional, respectful, and culturally sensitive manner in which she approached her work struck a chord with Sandra and me.

The idea of partnering on a project naturally came up, and Mary told us how, through a partner organization, the Tidlund Foundation



Mary Tidlund (centre) with Gerry and Sandra Bird.

Following our meeting, we notified BMLC Chair, Sylvester Tannis, of the opportunity to acquire the playgrounds and he immediately took up the cause within the Bequia community. Within a couple of days, Sylvester had assembled a BMLC sub-committee of local government officials, among them the Administrative Officer for Bequia, the Deputy Director of Grenadines Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister,

had received a number of dismantled playgrounds from the city of Calgary. Apparently the city replaces its playgrounds every three years! Working with volunteers from the Emmanuel Foundation, and other charitable and local community partners, the Tidlund Foundation has installed a number of these playgrounds – each worth \$30,000 to \$50,000 CAD – in developing countries like Trinidad, Kenya, and even a couple on St. Vincent. Mary was interested in the possibility of installing one or two playgrounds on Bequia, and although we knew it would make for a pretty tight timeline (to obtain the necessary approvals and to have the playgrounds shipped to Bequia in time for our annual March Break service project), our response was a resounding “Yes”!



Donated playground installed by the Tidlund Foundation in Litein, Kenya.

as well as the President of the Bequia Rotary Club. The committee is working to obtain the necessary approvals for the playground sites, one of which will hopefully be situated in Paget Farm and the other in the Port Elizabeth area.

This coming March, Sandra, Jean and I will again be joined in Bequia by Debbie March and three other members of Grace United Church in Peterborough. Working with a

team of local volunteers from schools, churches, Rotary, and Action Bequia (a recently established service group), we will complete the installation of one, and hopefully both of the playgrounds. The Tidlund Foundation is covering the costs of shipping them to Bequia and will also provide the services of an on-site engineer and project manager to supervise their assembly and installation. Sylvester (himself, a former Administrative Officer for Bequia) and his committee will oversee the clearance of the playgrounds through SVG Customs, and will ensure that

government approvals are secured and the sites prepared prior to our arrival in March. According to Mary, it will take a team of ten volunteers about a week to install one playground, so we will definitely have our work cut out for us!

Those of us involved with the Bequia Mission are very excited to be partnering with the Mary A. Tidlund Foundation in this venture. A few potential pitfalls remain, but if the plan comes together as we hope, the children of Bequia will enjoy the fruits of our labour for many years to come!



Gerry couldn't resist snapping a photo of these boys that we met on the road in Paget Farm in March. Their used motor oil container "cars" took us back to a day when kids everywhere used their ingenuity to make their own fun. No doubt, these boys will really enjoy the new playground that will soon be installed in their community!

Saluting our “Bequia Mission Heroes”!

At the Bequia Mission’s November 6 Board of Directors meeting, the suggestion was made to celebrate one of our loyal donors and/or volunteers in each issue of the Newsletter. The idea was unanimously endorsed, and so we are pleased to bring you our first tribute to a “Bequia Mission Hero”, or rather to a couple in this case. As regular readers of the newsletter will know, Chesley and Betty Fulton have visited Bequia on several occasions and, in addition to sponsoring a number of students in the past, they have been loyal and enthusiastic supporters of the Mission’s work in the islands. Most recently, the Fultons’

generosity has enabled the purchase of a portable AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) and associated training supplies for the Bequia Hospital. This critical piece of equipment will definitely save lives, once it is delivered and installed at the hospital this coming March. The following reflection, on their involvement with Bequia and the Mission, attests to the strong “heart connections” which Ches and Betty have forged with the many individuals they have helped in SVG over the years. As such, we are very pleased to salute them as true “Bequia Mission Heroes”!

Mission Memories by Betty & Ches Fulton

Our first connection with the Bequia Mission was in 1994 when Fr. Ron Armstrong died. We sent a cheque to June with which she arranged the sponsorship of a young lad from Union Island, Kenyatta Williams. Involved with Plan Canada for many years, we were thrilled to find we could now have direct contact and send small gifts to our sponsored student. We first met the family in 1997 on our first of three trips to Bequia. Kenny is now a registered nurse, graduate of the hospital on St. Vincent, working back in the small hospital on his home island of Union. Keeping contact throughout the years, we met twice for brief visits. It was very exciting to receive e-mail from him in October of this year asking if he could visit overnight here in Huntsville. What a fine young man he is! His sister Keaverna is in 2nd year of university in Havana, Cuba, on a 7-yr

government scholarship preparing to become a medical doctor!

Gaynor Kydd of Paget Farm, Bequia was our 2nd contact. She had been chosen by her principal as the recipient of a yearly high school bursary, given by St. Saints’ A.C.W. Huntsville. Gaynor and Kenyatta, both now 27 years of age, were in College together. We met Gaynor and her family in 1997. She came to Huntsville as our guest a few years later at age 16, three weeks with us plus three weeks at Camp Tawingo here in Huntsville. She was placed in what was known as the International Cabin – girls from all over the world! She absolutely loved Camp! The trip was loaded with firsts for this young lady. When I think back to how brave she was at age 16 – her first flight into a world she was unfamiliar with, and staying with people she hardly knew! Wow! She has made three trips to Huntsville, the

last a year ago in the midst of a snow-storm. We have been grandma & grandpa to Gaynor since her first trip to Huntsville. She is in the British Navy – last year tracing pirate ships on the high seas, this year training for the marines on land in England. It is sad that most of Bequia’s youth are required to go abroad to earn a decent living.

Last and closest to us is our Bequian/Canadian son Amos Hanson – we have been mom and dad to Amos for many years. We first met Amos upon graduation from the 3-year Church Army course in Toronto. In that the Bequia Mission paid for his schooling, he was required to return to St. Vincent. That proved fruitless as clergy there were unfamiliar with Church Army, and were hesitant to work with Amos. Fr. Bob Elkin in Carriacou, on loan from our Algoma Diocese was contacted, Amos became his assistant, and it was all up-hill from there! When Bob and Connie returned to Canada, Bob made arrangements to bring Amos to Canada in 2001 as his Youth Pastor at Holy Trinity in Sault Ste. Marie. Along with working at the church, Amos enrolled in a part-time computer course at Sault College. For the last five years he has worked in the computer department of a

medical clinic in the Sault, his wife Alice from Grenada is an R.N. in the obstetrics department of the Sault Hospital. They have two children – 7-yr. old Nathan and 4-yr. old Nyah, a lovely home and two cars - something he never dreamed possible in Bequia! Now like most of us, Amos volunteers at the church! All these young people have added immensely to our family. The pride and pleasure they have brought far exceeds the time and money invested in helping develop their character. Our Christmas gift to Amos’ family and to Gaynor is a donation to the AED unit that the Bequia Mission is giving to the Bequia Hospital.



Betty and Chesley Fulton

Medical Projects Committee Report by Linda Sagan Harrier

It's a pleasure to be heading up the Bequia Mission's newly formed Medical Projects Committee. We've gotten a few projects underway, and are looking forward to adding more as the needs are identified.

Sister Adorna Peters, the head nurse at the Bequia Casualty Hospital, has told us of the need for sutures and needles of varying sizes for all types of surgery. We've sent one

shipment to the hospital, and have ordered and will be sending a second shipment down this winter

Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll read about Kurt Cordice, who contacted us a year ago regarding partnering in the procurement of a portable AED for the island. Thanks to our Bequia Mission supporters, the AED has been ordered, along with an infant and an

adult mannequin for training. I took an adolescent training mannequin to Bequia this past March [a donation to the Bequia Mission from Dr. Demetra Soder of Cook County Hospital in Chicago], and will take the AED and additional mannequins down with me when I go in March of 2012. We are so grateful to Kurt, who developed and spearheaded this project.

There is a need for magnifying glasses in Bequia, for they're hard to find on the island. My local friend Vilna Ollivierre [you'll see our picture in the summer 2011 newsletter] has been unable to do any of her handiwork because of her declining vision. I have collected gently used magnifiers and will be taking a large supply down with me in March. If anyone has some magnifying glasses that they'd like to donate, please e-mail me (tlharrier@aol.com) and we'll make arrangements. They will be dispensed at the hospital and the Paget Farm clinic. They need to be magnifiers, though, and not prescription glasses, which have to be dispensed by a qualified eye professional.

I mentioned the above to my own optometrist and she asked if there was a need for her to go to Bequia and volunteer for a week. She and her husband, who is a physician, are looking for a project! I will meet with the hospital staff in March to discuss this, and perhaps we'll have a doctor

Bequia Lifesavers Initiative by Kurt Cordice

I have been a first aid instructor for many years. Having a little bit of knowledge of what to do in case of an emergency is important, and I think it is important to offer this knowledge to others whenever I have the opportunity to do so.

and an optometrist with us in March of 2013. I'll keep everyone posted!

Finally, I want to report that Bequia's big news on the medical front is that the SVG Ministry of Health applied for a USD \$380,000 grant through the Caribbean Development Bank's Basic Needs Trust Fund. The funds were approved to be used for hospital improvements, and the hospital renovations are now underway. This remarkable trust fund was launched in the 1970s with the goal of poverty reduction, with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency and the US Agency for International Development, and helps all of the Caribbean countries. It will be interesting to see the results of this grant when we're in Bequia next.

I hope to visit the projects on the island of St. Vincent that the Bequia Mission supports when I'm in the islands in March, and to find out what medical needs they have. Our committee member Christine Anderson is a Canadian who lives in Bequia for part of the year, and she'll be very helpful with this needs assessment.

Thank you to all of you, the friends and supporters of the Bequia Mission. My hope is that each one of you can make it down to St. Vincent and the Grenadines if you haven't been there yet, and see firsthand the work that the Bequia Mission supports.

I was thankful in 2010 to find myself back home home in Bequia for a few months. It was during that time that the idea surfaced...

We have been fortunate in Bequia to have a hospital, staffed by qualified professionals. However, for critical cases, all of the islands

of SVG depend on the hospital in Kingstown. Emergency care of a patient, especially in Bequia where the critical care unit is a fair distance away, is all important.

Emergency care has come a long way over the years. And, over the past decade, a new piece of equipment has become a standard part of primary care in medical emergencies. The AED or Automatic External Defibrillator is a device which delivers a potentially life-saving shock when the heart has stopped beating. Delivering such a shock is the best chance a person has to survive, and the earlier that shock is delivered, the better. You will now commonly see AED's in airports, train stations and many other public places worldwide. The units can be used by the lay-rescuer within minutes, even before professional help arrives on the scene.

In the context of Bequia, AED's are perfect machines for the medical needs of our little island. They are strong, sturdy and require little maintenance. They are easily portable, allowing them to be taken to the scene of a medical emergency, and to accompany a patient to the main emergency unit in Kingstown if necessary.

So, that was the idea: Bequia needs an AED unit. Bequia hospital has a large defibrillator unit, but it is not of the portable variety and requires special training to operate. They also have an older version of an AED given to the hospital years ago, but it stopped working, and there was no way to replace it or fix it. This is an example of the biggest challenge faced in terms of equipping a medical facility: It is not buying the equipment, but the long-term maintenance, and ensuring that there is continued

awareness and training to keep up the potential to use the equipment.

So, the idea to get an AED for Bequia has more to it than it seems. It would take some organisation, it would take the support of the Bequia hospital staff as well as community leaders, and it would require a long-term vision to support continued monitoring and upkeep of the unit. I no longer live in Bequia, and could not spearhead the effort locally. Nor did I think I should. This should be an effort of the community, for the benefit of the community. There was also the need for transparency of fund-raising efforts.

This is not a project I would have taken on without support, and I found that support through the Bequia Mission. And so, the Bequia Lifesavers (BLS) was born. Since then my contacts in the Bequia Mission, including Gerry, Linda and Mark, have been extremely patient and helpful in continuing to work towards the goals of the project. They say it only takes a spark to get the fire going. Well, an extremely generous couple who are members of the Mission provided more of a torch than a spark, already donating the bulk of the funds required for the purchase of the AED. The project website (www.bequalifesavers.org) is finally up and running, and to use another cliché, "We are cooking with gas now!"

But, none of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement of the Bequia Mission and its membership. I offer my greatest thanks for that support, and look forward to continued cooperation in doing good things for the Bequia community which we are all a part of.

A Brailier for Danny by Gerry Bird

Last March, at the Bequia Mission Local Committee Book Sale Fundraiser, BMLC member Myrtle James introduced me to Danny Chambers. I knew (from past conversations with long-time Mission members) that Danny, who is legally blind, had been sponsored for a number of years as a child by the Bequia Mission, to attend a special school in St. Vincent. Now, as a confident, personable young man, he had stopped by the book sale to introduce himself and to say thanks to the Mission members who had supported him in the past.

Danny now works for the National Society for the Blind in St. Vincent, and he inquired as to whether he thought there was a possibility that the Mission might help this organization secure a badly-needed “Braille Machine”. Upon returning to Canada, and doing some research on line, I learned that what Danny was referring to was actually a Perkins Brailier, a kind of “braille typewriter” with a key corresponding to

each of the six dots of the braille code. Although braille notation was designed for people who are blind or visually impaired to read, prior to the invention of the Perkins Brailier in 1951, writing braille had been a very cumbersome process.

After a great deal of searching, we eventually located a manual, second-hand brailier which we were able to purchase from a lady in Edmonton. As luck would have it, Christine and David Anderson, who live in Canmore, Alberta during the summer months, were able to take delivery of the brailier and very kindly carried it with them when they returned to Bequia this past October. Working with BMLC Treasurer, Carmette Gooding, the Andersons have also offered to purchase and deliver some paper and other supplies for the brailier when they return to Canada. Our thanks to Christine and David, Myrtle, Carmette, and of course to Danny, for a great team effort in making this donation possible!



Myrtle James and Danny Chambers



Perkins Brailier

From the Mission Mailbag

August 15, 2011

Dear Gerry and Friends:

Thank you for the wonderful report on the work of the Bequia Mission, including pictures and letters. June and Ron Armstrong worked with such joy that folks were attracted to them. This infected the community. How the kids loved to sing along with June!

The work has certainly expanded and brought committed people to Bequia to

August 6, 2011

Dear Friends:

It's always a blessing and a joy to have some good news coming in from the land of snow. As it reaches the warmth and very hot Bequia sunshine it quickly melts away. I received my newsletter on Friday, August 5, 2011 in a happy and bright spirit I read through and looked at the photos of homeowners, Gerald and Wilsena Ollivierre. The smiles on their faces tell us how much happier they are for the help that was given making their rest much more comfortable.

Sad to say, Gerald took sick a few days at the ending of July and was taken to the Milton Cato Hospital [in Kingstown, St. Vincent] where he died on the night of August 2nd, 2011 of a stroke. He will be laid to rest on Sunday, August 14.

Gerald was a faithful and hardworking man. Often times, he would converse while mending his net, how hard his parents worked and loved the Holy Cross Church in Paget Farm. They dedicated their time and

contribute their skills and abilities there. I'm sorry I won't be with you [at the Bequia Mission Picnic and Annual General Meeting] as our daughter, Cathy Busby, is being married in Halifax on August 27th. I wish you and the Bequia Mission God's richest blessings. Sincerely,

Norah Busby
Barrie, ON

service in love and sharing. He [Gerald] was one of those men last seen painting and doing repairs on the Holy Cross Anglican Church during the lifetime of the Armstrongs. As he said to me one day, "Ah'can't climb the ladder anymore, Ah left it to Jem Maloney to carry on". His lovely bass musical tone of voice was often heard in the morning worship, was missing for a long time in the congregation, but his love for his Church where he was baptized and confirmed, was always there.

His wife and family members all extend their appreciation and love to the Bequia Mission for all the love and support given and hope to see everyone who worked on their house back in Bequia whenever possible. The end of toil and labor is REST. Sleep on dear brother. God loves you best. Much love,

Myrtle James
Friendship, Bequia



Left: Gerald and Wilsena Olivierre's home in Paget Farm, Bequia prior to repairs by volunteers from the Bequia Mission and Grace United Church, Peterborough, in March 2011. Right: Gerald and Wilsena with their granddaughters and work crew at the conclusion of the project.

August 26, 2011

We knew Ron and June Armstrong from their association with Trinity Anglican Church in Streetsville. The Church had decided to have a one week mission to celebrate an anniversary and chose Ron to preach the mission each night. We also spent time with June and Ron in Bequia while on vacation and at that time Ron's mother died. Ron and June would come to Trinity annually to preach and report about the mission and encourage the early work parties to Bequia

The history of the mission as I remember Ron telling it. Ron and June had decided to spend the last 1/3 of their lives in an underdeveloped country. They were in Bequia with their daughter who decided to give out school supplies and count on donations to cover the cost. Ron told her that that would not be possible. On their return to Canada the treasurer of Trinity Streetsville gave receipts as the mission was not a registered charity yet. That was the beginning of the mission which you are carrying on. With our thanks and prayers.

Rosane & John Hanley
Mississauga, Ontario

September 27, 2011

Dear Gerry and Loxi:

How are you all keeping? Hope fine. I have enclosed our usual Wish List for submission - don't want the time to slip by. Things are moving on for St. Benedict's, a bit slow, but getting there. We are now in the process of landscaping. I am after the contractor to hand over the keys [for the new Children's Home] by end of October, but, the plan is for a little ceremony of opening on December 28th, Feast day of The Holy

Innocents.

We continue to pray to be spared from a hurricane, although these days are usually very, very hot. All the best. God bless you. Love and prayers.

Sr. Nyra Anne Pajotte O. Carm
Administrator, St. Benedict's Day
Nursery and Children's Home,
Georgetown, St. Vincent

October 1, 2011

Dear Friends and Members of the Bequia Mission:

I am grieved to inform you that my wife, Jean (E. Jean Thompson) died suddenly on May 7, 2011 from a brain haemorrhage. In the past we made several work-play trips to Bequia and have continued to financially support the Bequia Mission. I fondly remember the times we shared with Bernie and Dorla Warren (whom we knew

previously) and spending a couple of hours on Low Bay beach with the Prime Minister. Please keep sending me the newsletter. I will continue to support the Mission as long as I am able. Love to you all.

Lloyd Thompson
Tweed, Ontario



Exchanging Gifts at the Lewis Punnett Home:

In March 2011, during our annual visit to distribute gift bags to residents at the Lewis Punnett Home in St. Vincent, we were surprised when one of the nursing supervisors (our apologies for not identifying him in the above photo, but we neglected to write down his name!) presented us with a framed certificate of appreciation, which Gerry accepted on behalf of the Bequia Mission. Mission volunteers have been shipping supplies and visiting the elderly

residents of the Lewis Punnett Home for almost forty years. In particular, our thanks go to members of the Outreach Committee at St. David's Anglican Church in Orillia, Ontario, as well as to Loxi Street, Janice Moreau, Dianne Posnanovic and friends, for their efforts over the past few years in collecting personal care items (toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, tea and sweets, etc.), and then sewing and packing the gift bags for delivery to the LPH residents.

From the Mission Archives

About a year ago, we were contacted by Mary Jane Bennett of London, Ontario, about her late parents, Ed and Lee Bennett of Woodstock. While going through some of her father's belongings, Mary Jane came

across negatives of photos which her parents had taken on a visit to Bequia in the 1980's. She recalled that during this trip they had met and become friends with the Armstrongs. She also came across an old

pen with the Bequia Mission's name on it, and upon searching the internet, was able to locate our website. Mary Jane emailed us to see if we would be interested in receiving the negatives for the Mission's archives, and then kindly sent them to us. Luckily, each envelope was inscribed with a handwritten description of what each picture showed. We extend our sincere thanks to Mary Jane for going out of her way to share them with us, and we hope that they will bring back fond memories for those of you who may have been involved with the Mission in these early days.

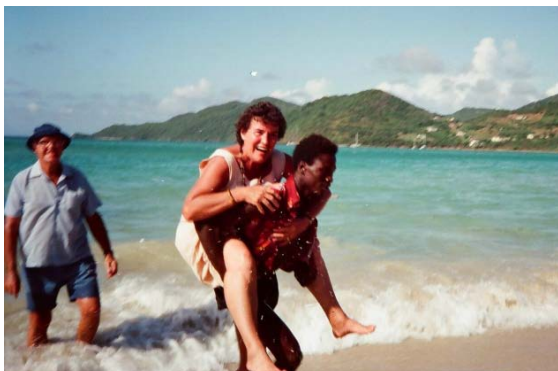
Interestingly, some internet research of our own revealed that, among other distinctions, Ed Bennett was an amateur historian and a WWII veteran of the Dieppe raid. He passed away on Remembrance Day 2010 at the age of 97. Ed was predeceased by Lee, who died in 2002. The following photos were taken on the Grenadine islands of Bequia and Canouan in November, 1984.



Ed Bennett at Angel's Rest, the Armstrongs' home on Bequia.



June entertains the children on Canouan.



June hitches a ride ashore on Canouan.



Ron Armstrong, Lee Bennett, and June Armstrong on the porch at Mac's Pizzeria, Bequia.

As always, we appreciate your letters and support. Please address correspondence to:

The Bequia Mission
RR 4
Lakefield ON, K0L 2H0 Canada

Or contact us by email at: gbird@lcs.on.ca or
holding.jean@gmail.com
Website: www.bequiamission.ca