

ROYAL CARIBBEAN ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS

Maranatha 30th Anniversary Cruise – March 2007



Maranatha Fellowship began in October 1976

And celebrated their 30 year anniversary with this cruise to the Caribbean.

DAY 1 - When I received the invitation, in October 2006 for the cruise which would happen in March 2007, I couldn't resist and made my deposit requesting a single room. At the end of December with one week left to finalize plans, I invited Barbara Crim to join me and she accepted. She flew from Indianapolis and I flew from Las Vegas and we met at the hotel in Fort Lauderdale, spent the night there, and took the shuttle to the port the next day.

DAY 2 - When we got dressed the first day, we discovered we both had brought along a green/white striped polo shirt in honor of St. Patrick's day...so of course we had to wear them at the same time. Unfortunately, some of my photos got lost including the one of us as twins.

Ship left port about 4pm. **DAY 3** - Next morning, Sunday, we met with the MFC group for a short service, then spent the rest of the day enjoying the ship.

Itinerary

Fort Lauderdale

Florida

George Town

Grand Cayman

Ocho Rios

Jamaica

Coco Cay

Bahamas

Fort Lauderdale

Floriday



Fort Lauderdale, Florida; George Town, Grand Cayman; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; CocoCay, Bahamas; Fort Lauderdale, Florida

First Stop: Grand Cayman

DAY 4 - We sailed overnight and awakened docked out in the Caribbean a little distance from George Town, Grand Cayman. Jim (Wright) told me that Pastor and Hya Rose would meet us at the taxi dock.

After breakfast, I took the water taxi, but I missed Jim and Virginia at the boarding dock and assumed I would be showing myself around town today. To my surprise, they all waited for me! Barbara had chosen to stay on the ship at least for part of the day.

First, Pastor Rose took us to walk in the white sand of Seven Mile Beach in George Town. From there, we went visit Triple C School run by the Churches of God on Grand Cayman at 74 Fairbanks Road, George Town. The principal, Margie Ebanks, had been a student of mine at Anderson University in 1967-68. Thirty years later, she still looked the same. It is a K-12 school with an enrollment of about 300. She gave us a tour of the very modern facilities.



Pastor Winston and
Hyacinth Rose
Bodden Town
Church of God
Grand Cayman

After visiting Tri C School, Pastor and Hya took us to see their church—Bodden Town Church of God, and gave us a tour of their newly built two-story home.

Bodden Town - Founded in the 1700s, Bodden Town district is located on the south side of Grand Cayman Island. The village of Bodden Town was the original capital of the Cayman Islands. Its population is currently listed at 5,764.



Hurricane Ivan, a category 5 storm, hit Grand Cayman on September 12, 2004. Three and a half years later, we visited. Most buildings on the island had suffered damage—many of them totally destroyed. By the time we visited 3 ½ hrs later, there were only minor remnants of the destruction.

Hell Grand Cayman

Pastor and Hya then took us to visit Hell, Grand Cayman. **Hell** is a group of short, black, limestone formations located in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Located in West Bay, Grand Cayman, it is roughly the size of half a soccer field. People are not allowed to walk amongst the limestone formations but viewing platforms do exist for visitors.

There are numerous versions of how Hell received its name, but they are generally variations on "a local official exclaimed, 'This is what Hell must look like.'"

It is also claimed that the name "Hell" is derived from the fact that if a pebble is thrown out into the formation, it echoes amongst the limestone peaks and valleys and sounds as if the pebble is falling all the way down to "Hell."

Regardless of how it first came to be called Hell, the name stuck and the area has become a tourist attraction, featuring a fire-engine red hell-themed post office from which you can send "postcards from hell", and a gift shop with 'Satan' passing out souvenirs while greeting people with phrases like 'How the hell are you?' and 'Where the hell are you from?'

Ironically, some of the stores in the area feature prominent quotations from the Bible on their sides. This is due to the pious nature of Caymanian society.

Hell can be quite busy as it is a stop for cruise ship tours.

All the pictures on this page are from Hell.



After our tour, Pastor and Hya too us to a restaurant in George Town where all the Church of God pastors came to have lunch with Jim (Pastor Wright) who had been the guest speaker for revivals in two previous Januarys. After a nice lunch and fellowship, Pastor and Hya took Jim, Virginia and me back to the water taxi port where we said good-bye. Virginia and I took a walk through the gift shops and she bought a couple of things and I bought a cup for a souvenir. As we were leaving, Barbara got off a water taxi...so Jim and Virginia went back to the ship and I stayed on the island with Barbara to look around the shops for a while. We got back to the ship in time for dinner and a concert.



Every time you get off the ship in a different country, here are photographers there to greet you and take your photo. I decided to buy this one as I didn't have any other photos of me on the island.



Seated at our table in the dining room. This was formal night. She and I have the same red and black lace jacket from Coldwater Creek.



Randy and Sue Stanley also at our table....



Randy and Sue again...she's priming for the ring (she hopes he'll buy her on the ship (he did!))

Ocho Rios, Jamaica

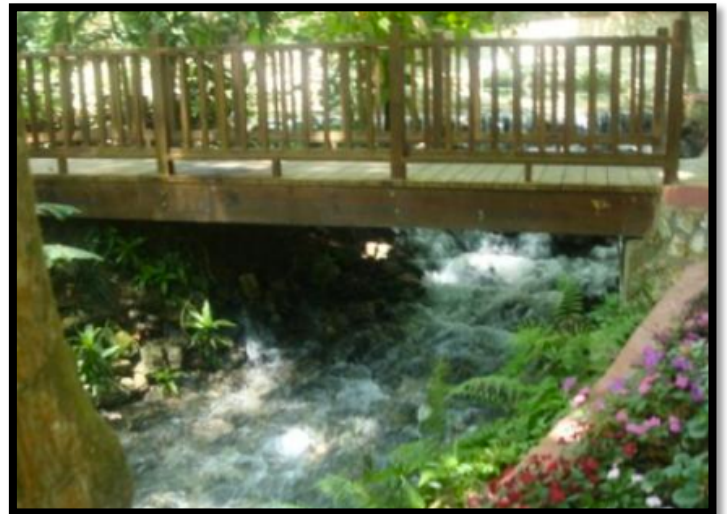


DAY 5- After breakfast, Barbara and I left the ship and walked the gangplank onto land at Ocho Rios. What a day! Pouring rain. Took a shuttle to the shopping center....VERY crowded....mud everywhere...and lots of litter.

Ocho Ríos (Spanish for "Eight Rivers") is a town on the north coast of Jamaica. The name "Ocho Rios" is a misnomer because there are not eight rivers in the area. It was once a fishing village but now caters to tourists. It is a port of call for cruise ships as well as for cargo ships loading sugar.

Because of the weather, we did very little. Went into a shop or two, but everything was so damp I didn't even want to touch it. When the rain let up a little, Barbara and I walked across a little bridge in town where I nearly became nauseated when looking at the thick murky water full of debris. We then started to walk toward some houses we saw a couple of blocks away—thinking to see how the people lived. However, we were stopped and told to return to the tourist area. Still not sure if they were merely citizens of Ocho Rios who stopped us or plain clothes policemen watching for straying tourists. Our cruise ship only spent a few hours here. If the weather had been better and we had stayed longer, we might have taken some side trips to see the advertised beauty of Ocho Rios.

Very happy to get back on ship, dry out, and get some dinner.



Midnight Chocolate Buffet

We came back from the evening concert and were in bed by 11pm....lights out....talking. Then we remembered there was a Midnight Chocolate Buffet. Should we or shouldn't we? Why not! We got out of bed, dressed, and went upstairs....getting there early enough to be among the first in line. The doors opened precisely at 12 midnight...and ooh aah what a site it was. The pictures on this page were taken at the buffet...yes, we were thrilled that we had come...if not to eat (although we couldn't resist everything!), it was awesome to see all the displays and presentations...



Midnight Chocolate Buffet, continued



Left Buffet about 1am and went back to room and back to bed—quite happy with ourselves



Fort Lauderdale
To
Grand Cayman
To
Ocho Rios, Jamaica
To
Bahamas tomorrow...

DAY 6 - Today we could sleep in later—good thing after being up so late for the Midnight Buffet. It was a full day of sailing, so we walked around the ship, participated in an activity here and there, and sat and enjoyed the view. In the evening there was a formal dinner followed by a concert.



*Enchantment of the Seas
March 18th, 2007*



*My Fair Lady
Dining Room*

Dine in luxury as you sit back and marvel at the elegance and service offered onboard your Royal Caribbean Cruise. A soft musical ambience compliments this 1365 seated dining experience, as the beauty of the My Fair Lady watches over one of the most spectacular dining rooms on the Seven Seas

Coco Cay, Bahamas

DAY 7 - After breakfast, we got off the ship and onto Coco Cay, Royal Caribbean's Private Island in the Bahamas. Several from our ship went swimming or snorkeling. Barbara and I walked around a little path and through a fence to a native cottage where they were selling hand-made items. Back to Coco Cay. They were grilling hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch.



We went back to the ship late afternoon, rested and started packing. At dinner said farewell to our MFC friends. We went to a concert, then back to our room to put our luggage out. Ready to sleep by 11pm.

DAY 8 - Up early, got dressed, and went up to Lido deck for breakfast. Back down to the central area to wait for our number to be called to check out. Gathered our luggage and boarded the bus to the airport.

Said goodbye to Barbara as she went her way to fly back home to Indianapolis...and I found the Southwest Gates and boarded my plane for home in Las Vegas.



THE END OF A
GREAT CRUISE

ROYAL CARIBBEAN

ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS

Maranatha Fellowship
30th Anniversary Cruise

MARCH 2007

