



# Outreach Jamaica

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020

**OUTREACH JAMAICA  
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[www.outreachjamaica.org](http://www.outreachjamaica.org)

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## **UPDATE**

**Dear Friends,**

**We've been spending a lot of time lately looking back over this past year; going over all of the things we had prayed for, planned for and looked forward to going into 2020. I think we can without question say for the most part, 2020 has NOT been what we had prayed for, planned for, or looked forward to!**

**January brought a 7.7 magnitude earthquake and tsunami threat to our doorstep in Jamaica. Fear. Anxiety. Worry. But praise God, there was no catastrophe!**

**February brought separation, as Shamar and I made our way to the States to begin his citizenship process and to spend time with my ailing mom. After only a few short weeks here, Covid-19 came and lockdowns started. Sadness. Loneliness. Fear. Anxiety. Worry. But I got to spend lots of time with our boys and my sister's family.**

**March-June brought continued lockdowns, both here and in Jamaica. Scrambling for how to best serve our people in Jamaica while lacking resources and still trying to stay 'safe'. Multiple, disheartening medical diagnoses for my mom. Shamar's paperwork was put on 'hold' due to Covid. Racial and social tensions. Homesickness. Frustration. Fear. Sadness. But... I got really good at Phase 10!**

**July-September brought some relief, as Jacques was able to make a short trip to WY. We felt it was safe enough to travel to spend a few days with dear friends in WY and family in Utah. However, in early July, Jacques sister and brother-in law in FL contracted Covid. It was a roller-coaster of emotions as their conditions would improve, then deteriorate. His brother-in-law was finally able to leave the hospital late in September, but his sister remained in critical condition. Visits to my mom in assisted living were stopped completely as outbreaks began in long-term care facilities here. No word on Shamar's paperwork except that they had resumed working on his case. Frustration. Worry. Doubt. Fear. But we all remained healthy.**

**October-November brought something we weren't prepared for: Jacques' sister, Pearline, passed away from Covid on October 15th. Nobody from our family could travel to the funeral due to restrictions. On November 4th, my mom had a stroke and nobody could be with her at the hospital due to Covid. No updates on Shamar's paperwork. Shock. Grief. Worry. Fear. Homesickness. Frustration. But I got to spend the first holiday in 6 years with Nicolas and Brady.**

continued ...

And here we are, now in December! December, so far, has seen my mom continuing to improve from her stroke and doing better than we had expected at this point! Shamar received his official documents in the mail Monday! And, we're finally seeing me being able to start making plans towards returning to Jamaica very soon, Lord willing!

When we began this year, we couldn't have imagined all that would take place throughout 2020...all of the pain, fear, doubt, heartache and grief that we, and so, so many others have experienced. But ...what can separate us from God's love? Can fear? Loneliness? Separation from loved ones? Hardship? Heartbreak? Grief? Worry? Loss? Sickness? Death? HALLELUJAH, we are convinced that *NOTHING* in the past, present OR future can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord! We can say with assurance, that in spite of everything, GOD IS GOOD and FAITHFUL and WITH US! God has proven it over and over in countless ways. As the Josh Baldwin song says, "I (we) see the evidence of Your goodness all over our lives! I (we) see your promises in fulfillment all over our lives! We've personally experienced growth that cannot be brought about by any other means than through struggle. We've seen growth in members of our congregations in Jamaica. New doors of opportunity for ministry and reaching the unsaved have been opened...all because of the events of this year.

Friends, as we enter into this Christmas season, let's remember that in the darkest times of our lives, there is a *Star* that we can follow that will lead us to our Savior! We are led, even through the darkest of times, to bow in worship at His feet! Emmanuel came, and GOD IS WITH US! One of my favorite Christmas songs is "O Holy Night".

***"Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,  
Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!"***

As we look forward to the rest of 2020 and into 2021, Lord willing, I pray that even in this weary, tired world we will rejoice as a glorious future greets us with new opportunities for love, grace and growth! I pray we can rest in the assurance that *NOTHING* can separate us from His love!

From our family to all of you, may you have a blessed, hopeful and joyous Christ-filled Christmas season!  
Love,  
Jacques and Bev

Please take time to check out our new website at  
[www.outreachjamaica.org](http://www.outreachjamaica.org)