



**OUTREACH JAMAICA
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*If you would like to send a
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Outreach Jamaica

APRIL 2020

UPDATE

Dear Friends,

We wanted to take a moment and update you on how things are going in Jamaica and with our family.

I (Bev) and Shamar are still in Wyoming...indefinitely. All air and sea ports remain closed into Jamaica until at least May 31. Shamar's immigration paperwork has been filed, but we've yet to hear a status on it since government's announcement that immigration was being put on hold for at least 60 days. We're praying the hold doesn't apply to his category of petition, but we haven't been able to find any information regarding it. We are doing well here. Homeschooling with Shamar has its ups and downs...I'm re-discovering everything I disliked about Algebra as a student! Mom has recovered from pneumonia and is doing fairly well, considering. We've been having telemed conferences with her doctors and have been able to keep her from having to leave the Assisted Living facility except to have some tests run. She's been diagnosed with several gallstones and will need treatment as soon as possible once the quarantine is lifted, unless she becomes critical before then. We're able to send in little gifts occasionally to try to keep her spirits lifted (and have snuck to her window to wave a time or two!) Thank you for your prayers on her behalf.

Jacques and the children are doing well in Jamaica. Parts of the country are under complete lockdown, and people allowed out only for a few hours a few day each week to shop. The rest of the country is under a 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. curfew. Stores are open a few hours each day in order for workers to be able to make it to/from work before curfew begins. Masks are required by anyone who goes outside their homes. There are around 400 positive cases diagnosed so far, with 7 deaths.

Jacques is continuing to buy and distribute food items as much as possible. Since much of Jamaica's food source is imported, some items are becoming difficult to find. He distributed 15 bags to families in our community on Sunday, and as he reached back home, more people were at our gate asking for anything at all. He will be shopping again tomorrow for another distribution on Friday.

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We have been having church services via Whatsapp since mid-March and are excited about the response. Many non-church community members have requested to be added to the group and some have said they are forwarding services to friends and family in Jamaica and abroad. Whereas it isn't the most up-to-date format, it is one that most of our community have access to with limited internet and for a low cost. We have been helping to provide funds as needed for people to buy data service, both for church services as well as for schooling for their children.

Due to the uncertainty of whether school will resume in Jamaica this term or not, we are not able to confidently continue with plans for VBS or youth camp. In all likelihood, we will need to forego both of these activities, at least as we have done them in previous years. We will be trying to find ways to minister to the children and youth once the country starts to open back up and begins to find a new 'normal'.

We cannot tell you enough how much your prayers and continued support mean to us, especially during these challenging times. So far, we have been able to meet all of our monthly expenses even though we're running two households. We are blessed by your generosity and praise God for the people he's put in our lives to share in this ministry. We are not unaware of the hardships many of you and your church members are facing also during this health emergency, and will continue to lift you up in prayer as well. We have a ROCK to stand on that is unshakeable and gives us hope for today...and tomorrow! May God continue to lavish His love and grace on us all!

Yours in His service,
Jacques and Bev

“ They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.”

Psalm 112:7 NLT