



Outreach Jamaica

APRIL - OCTOBER 2021

**OUTREACH JAMAICA
CONTACT
INFORMATION:**

FORWARDING AGENTS

Jim and Barb Gale
P.O. Box 2473
Mills, Wyoming 82644
jgale34659@aol.com
307-265-2433

MISSIONARIES

Jacques and Bev Blackwell
P.O. Box 339
Ocho Rios
Jamaica, West Indies
jacquesblackwell@yahoo.com
876-429-4059

www.outreachjamaica.org

If you would like to send a donation, please make checks payable to Outreach Jamaica.

You may also donate through PAYPAL at agapeharbor@yahoo.com

All donations are tax-deductible.

UPDATE

Hello! It's been a while since we've updated you on what's going on here, mainly because we've been under a series of curfews and total lockdowns on and off since March and our activities have been limited. The most recent series of measures over the past six weeks were 3 1/2 day per week 'no movement days'. Curfew began at 6 p.m. Saturday evenings and ended at 5 a.m. Wednesdays. These measures were called after the positivity rate topped 50% and hospitals were out of oxygen and putting patients on the floor due to overcrowding. While it did initially bring the positivity rate down to the mid 40% range, it also created problems of overcrowding in grocery stores, markets, banks, etc.; stores out of supplies, non-functioning ABMs and people panicking that they weren't going to be able to access their money, or have food to buy even if they did. Given that an estimate 85% of Jamaicans live day to day with their food supply, and many of those buy meal to meal, the curfews started to cause some civil unrest in areas. These set of curfews were amended September 15 to Saturdays 8p.m until Mondays 5 a.m. These measures will continue until October 28, unless further amendments are made before then.

On the brighter side, as of September 26, churches have been permitted to meet between the hours of 7-3 pm with up to 50 members present. Previous to that we were only allowed to host online services with no more than 12 people present. We had to issue authorization papers to everyone present in case they were stopped by police coming to/from church since it is still a curfew day. Our first service on Sunday 26th was a glorious time of fellowship and being together again as a body!

On October 8, I (Bev) will be starting back our children's ministry with small groups of children meeting on Saturday afternoons. We haven't been able to have Sunday School or Kingdom Kid's Club since the beginning of the pandemic due to crowd limits and curfews. With the recent loosening on some of the restrictions, we are excited to get some of our programs re-started. Jamaican children are still doing online schooling only; face-to-face schooling has been suspended since March 2020 and no target date set for it to resume. We are concerned for the emotional and spiritual health of our community's children, and for the entire nation.

Our congregation continues to minister through the Food Pantry, providing staple food items weekly to families in need. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the community of Beecher Town, and some from surrounding communities through this ministry. We have had distributions every 6 weeks to the children of the Beecher Town Primary and Basic School, and will continue, as the Lord provides, until face-to-face learning resumes. We are also assisting with pre-paid cellular phone credit to students who don't have Wi-Fi service, (the overwhelming majority of children!) and have purchased 2 tablets for students with no device to do online school with.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support as we continue to navigate these challenging times!
- Jacques and Bev

Please take time to visit our website at www.outreachjamaica.org