Outreach Jamaica

JANUARY-MARCH 2021

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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

Dear Friends and Family,

It certainly is good to be writing you from home! I'm sitting here listening to the rain falling and considering getting a sweater because it's feeling a little 'cold' (high 60's at noon). I won't complain about the weather, though, because since I've been back in Jamaica since mid-January I've been reminded of what's coming this summer. We're thankful for the rainfall...our storage tanks are nearly full! Unfortunately, with the rain comes the mosquitoes and all of the diseases like Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika.

I made it through quarantine relatively easily....it ended up being 16 days instead of 14 because of some glitches in the government's tracking app. The schools were beginning to open back for face-to-face classes in mid January for our children, only to be closed back down after 10 days because of covid infections within their schools. We're still facing the frustration, both for students and teachers, of on-line classes with poor internet access here in Beecher Town and across the island. Even one year into the pandemic, there are sill students and teachers who were without devices to enable them to do schooling. Our congregation was able to source laptops through a local foundation for 3 of our members (1 student and 2 teachers). We're hoping to be able to help assist more in the future as needed.

continued ...

As of February 28, the country of Jamaica is under a more strict lock-down to help curb the covid-19 infection rate. We remain under curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily; no gatherings of more than 10 people; no church worship services, but up to 10 people are allowed to meet in church to facilitate online services; NO funeral services or burials can take place until at least after March 24; and they are requesting all people over 60 years old to stay home and only come out for dr. appointments.

With the new restrictions set to continue for at least the next 2 weeks, we have gone to online church services for Sunday mornings. We are having to pre-record them due to the poor internet service here in Beecher Town. Jacques has also had to postpone preaching at the Northview Church of Christ until restrictions are lifted. For anyone interested, our online services can be viewed on the Beecher Town Church of Christ YouTube channel. Our mid-week, noon bible study and prayer meeting has had to be discontinued for the time being as well. Our goal is to continue our online services even after we are permitted to meet in person; however we are lacking in both the audio and video equipment necessary to do the quality job we would like. If you would like to help the congregation to purchase the needed equipment (appx US $1200) please notify our forwarding agents and designate funds towards "church AV equipment". In the meantime, we'll continue to do what we can with what we have.

We also continue to operate the food pantry for people in Beecher Town and surrounding communities who are in need. We've had people come from outside of our parish looking for help, and praise God, we've never had to turn anyone away due to lack of food! We're also regularly assisting some children with phone credit for data for their online classes as the majority of phone plans here are pre-paid plans.

We were able to join efforts with the Beecher Town Give Back Association before Christmas to distribute food for Christmas Dinner and other staple items to more that 150 families in the Beecher Town, Hinds Town and Epworth communities.

We want to thank all of you for your continued prayers and support. We know these are trying and challenging times for all of us. Your notes of encouragement along with your faithful prayer and financial support are vital in helping us keep ministering. We pray for you all often, that God continue to bless and keep you. Yours in His service,

Jacques and Bev

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