



Outreach Jamaica

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OUTREACH JAMAICA
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UPDATE

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

Psalm 112:7 NLT

Dear friends and family in Christ,

We pray this finds you all well and continuing to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Things are finally starting to get back to pre-2020 in Jamaica. Most schools opened up in March with mask and sanitization protocols in place. Thanks to friends of the ministry, we were able to purchase a bed and bedding for the covid isolation sick bay, repair and replace the water pipes that had been damaged and stolen during lock down, and help with repairs to the bathrooms (doors, partition for separate toilet for isolation students). Because of the lack of square footage that is required per student for some of the classes at the Primary School, it became necessary for some classes to be kept outside. With a temporary partition in place, the multi-purpose auditorium soon became two class rooms . Due to rain, we are needing to put up a partial wall to keep water and animals out. Jacques and I donated 500 blocks to start, but more will be needed to complete it.



All restrictions for crowd sizes were lifted in April, so we were able to start having church services with no restrictions. Our sister churches were able to have their Harvest services for the first time in 2 years, and what a time of celebration it has been, seeing our church brothers and sisters from other congregations for the first time in 2 years!

UPDATE (cont'd)

Until restrictions were lifted, I continued with my small group of 8 children for Kingdom Kids Club and we finished up our 10 week study of The Fruit of the Spirit. I'm so proud of my silly little group of kids...each one of them were able to say the memory verses from each week when they took their 'final'. We had a little party with pizza and ice cream, and gave them each a back-to-school package along with a small New Testament Bible. Kingdom Kids Club has been suspended while I'm in the States, but the children continue to come out to church and continue to be taught during Jr. church.

Sunday School classes have resumed, as well as other programs of the church.



IN OTHER NEWS....

Jacques has been approached about the possibility of him taking up the ministry at the Ocho Rios Church of Christ. They are currently without a full-time minister, as the current minister is 82 and no longer able to keep up. Previous attempts to fill the void have fallen through. Please pray with us as we consider this, as it would be a big step at this point in our lives to take on a new ministry. Please also pray, as there are 4 other churches in the parish of St. Ann who are without full time ministers due to deaths and retirement of their pastors.

We will not be able to hold a VBS this summer due to lack of planning time and not enough staffing. The group that had planned to come to help us had to cancel because of the uncertainty of what was happening at the beginning of the year. There will also not be a summer Youth camp program this year, due to the short time to plan and put financing together once restrictions were lifted.

We ARE moving forward with plans for our annual St Ann Youth Retreat in November, Lord willing. We will be in contact with you soon as to how you might be able to assist us with this retreat. It is going to take a good while for families to recover financially from the 2+ year shutdown of some businesses, and our young people have suffered greatly from the isolation and lack of fellowship during this time. More than ever, we want to make the retreat accessible to as many youth from the St. Ann churches as possible.

We also continue with the feeding program for those with food insecurities. We are in the process of planning a large distribution at the end of the school year to help assist families with children throughout the summer. So many of the children at the schools are only getting their meals from the free Breakfast and Lunch programs. With food prices rising weekly, the numbers of those in need continue to go up as well.

And There's More...



You'll remember in our last newsletter that we mentioned that we had taken in a young pregnant woman who had been abandoned by her boyfriend, and her mother and step-father had refused her a place to live. On May 1, baby boy "K" arrived after a very hard labor and delivery. Both mama and baby are now doing well. Mama is healing and hopes to start looking for a job within the next month or so. We have told her she can continue to stay with us as she gets back on her feet financially, finds work and child care. The child's father is still absent and is not communicating with her. Her mom did come to visit, and we received this note from her this week:

"Good evening Ms. Bev. Just want to say a BIG THANK YOU to you and Pastor Jacques for opening your home to 'D'. What would she do without you? Seeing them, they are so so happy and are well taken care of, thank you again."

Please continue to pray that God would use us as we love on both of them for as long as they're with us!

(Mother's Day)

Jacques on babysitting duty so K's mama can have her lunch in peace.

On A Personal Note...

As you might imagine, there are many challenges that most missionaries face. One is finding the balance between ministry and family commitments to those they leave behind to live on a foreign field.

We are dealing with that now again as Bev's mom's health continues to decline. She is dealing with multiple health issues that demand a family member be present to go to Dr appointments, tests etc as they try to sort through the various issues. Bev is planning to be in the states to assist with her mom's care until probably August-September, Lord willing. It is difficult to not be together for this length of time, but circumstances prevent other family members to be there to help, and someone NEEDS to be there.

We are also anxiously looking forward to the birth of our first GRANDSON in August! Nicolas and Sierra are expecting their son August 11 and we are excited to meet the newest addition to our family.

One of the more difficult aspects of being missionaries, in our experience, is the financial aspect. Being part of the Churches of Christ/Christian Church '*movement*' adds another dimension to the financial challenges that missionaries from our group face...raising and maintaining personal support to finance their ministry.

Since July of last year, Bev and I have found our income going down by over \$400/month. We understand that some of our supporting churches are facing dire financial circumstances themselves due to Covid impacts on their congregations. We are also aware that individuals who have been supporting us are facing serious challenges because of inflation and the current economic situation in the US.

We also are not only dealing with rapid inflation in Jamaica, the devaluing of the Jamaican currency, but now also the added loss of income, with little or no notice. We have made commitments to individuals, churches and ministry programs that we have been struggling to meet. Our personal savings is being drained trying to keep up with the commitments we've made for 2022.

If you feel the Lord leading you, we would welcome you contacting us about supporting the ministry in Jamaica. Either we, or our forwarding agents, would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

To those of you who are sacrificing and faithfully continue your support of the ministry in Jamaica-
THANK YOU! Your prayers, encouragement and financial support keep us going.

We are so thankful for you! God bless you all!

~ Jacques and Bev

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