



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

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# Outreach Jamaica

JANUARY – MAY 2023

## UPDATE

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

***Psalm 112:7 NLT***

Good morning! It has been a good while since you've heard from us, and I apologize again for being out of touch. Shortly after the first of the year my computer crashed and it's taken a while for us to purchase another one and get it set up. Not being techy, it's taken me a long time to try to figure out some of the 'new' updates.

It has been extremely hot and dry here for most of the year to date. We had our annual Thanksgiving Harvest Service in Beecher Town January 29, but had very little in the way of vegetables and ground food this year due to the drought. We did a LOT of baking of coconut items this year, and had a blessed time with congregations from across the island joining with us to give God thanks for His continued provision throughout the past year.



## UPDATE (cont'd)

The Beecher Town Harvest Service in January kicks off the Harvest Services throughout the rural area Churches of Christ, with the last one coming up June 25. The Beecher Town congregation has attended all of the 11 sister congregations' Harvest services. This has been the first year since 2019 that most congregations have been able to host Harvest because of COVID restrictions, so it has truly been a grand time of fellowship!

## CAMP

In February, work started at the River Head Christian Camp grounds. Both Jacques and I are on the Building and Grounds Committee, as well as the Camp Planning Committee. Again, because of COVID restrictions, this will be the first year of camp since 2019. With the camp site being dormant for almost 3 1/2 years, there are a lot of repairs and maintenance to be done to get the site ready for camp in July and Jacques has been leading work teams from Beecher Town to bush the property as well as to do repairs to the dorms, kitchen, staff quarters and bathrooms. We are needing assistance in 2 areas regarding camp:

- 1) Cost of repairs (estimated US \$ 9,000)
- 2) Sponsorship for campers (US \$50 per camper)

We will be having 2 weeks of Camp this year- Junior week ages 9-12 July 23-29  
Senior week ages 13-18 July 30-Aug 5

If you are able to help us with either of these needs for our youth, please let us know! Our young people are also craving the fellowship that was lost during the lockdowns and we are excited to restart the youth camp program. We currently have at least 10 campers from Beecher Town that have signed up to attend, if we can arrange even partial sponsorship for them.





# VBS

Unfortunately, we will not be having a Vacation Bible School in Beecher Town this summer. It pains us to not be able to minister to the children in the community who look forward to it every year, but we were not able to line up a group to come to help, and due to health and job issues within our local congregation, we were unable to have enough people commit to help with the over 100 + children who normally attend.

I have been asked to help assist the Ocho Rios Church of Christ put together a VBS for July, and am working with them on lessons, crafts and music for that.

If you would be interested in talking to us about helping with VBS 2024, Lord willing, please contact us and let us know! It usually take 6-8 months to start planning for a group to visit us here. We would love to visit with you about dates, costs etc and help you start to make plans.

## SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

We were able to assist 36 families with children who attend the Beecher Town Infant and Primary School and the Beecher Town Basic School with food packages to take home over the 10 day Easter Break. We also continue to assist with the Free Breakfast and Lunch program at both schools. If you are interested in assisting us in these continuing programs to help feed the children in our communities that have food insecurity, please let us know! We plan, with God's help, to assist with packages for children over the long summer holiday, distributing once for July and again in August.





Continued...



Breakfast- Beecher Town Infant and Primary School



(2 lower right) Beecher Town Basic School Lunch

## On A Personal Note....

I had to make a quick trip to the US as my mom was in the hospital in ICU and PCU for over a month with multiple health issues. After she was released from the hospital she spent another 15 days in a rehab hospital, and is now back at home in assisted living. She is confined to a wheel chair and bed for the most part, unable to move around much due to her fractured vertebrae. Please continue to keep her in prayer, as she is in constant pain and not eating well. Her name is Darlene, and she will be 87 in a few months, Lord willing.

While in the states, I was also able to spend some time in Texas with our daughter, Megan, and her newborn son, Carter. He is a precious little gift from God! We are now grandparents to Emi (8), Kairo (10 months) and Carter (3 months). Emi is at the Beecher Town Infant and Primary School and still lives with us. She is in grade 3, and just received 2 awards for getting the highest marks on her external exams in Language Arts and Communication Task. She is an avid reader and keeps us on our toes!

We are also still assisting the young woman, "D" who came to live with us when she was pregnant and homeless in November 2021. Her son, Kasen, turned 1 on May 1 and is walking and getting into everything! "D" is working now, but still not able to afford a place of her own, so will likely be with us indefinitely.

We are also getting ready for 2 graduations! Our foster daughters, Shelice (19) and Telice (17) are both graduating next month! Telice is graduating from high school, and will start her associates degree in a field still to be determined in September.

Shelice is graduating with her Associates of Arts in Humanities. She was accepted into the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus) in Kingston, and will be moving there in August. She will be doing Sociology and Law. We've been helping her fill out scholarship and grant applications, and she has received a partial scholarship to help cover her first year! Thank you, Jesus! It is an academic scholarship, so we will still have to cover her room and board, but we are so grateful that for at least her first year, she will not have to work full time to stay in school.

This mama's heart is concerned for her living in Kingston and being away from home, but we could not be prouder of these two girls and what they have overcome in their lives to get them to where they are today! Many of you have poured into them over the years, so to all of the 'uncles and aunties' and surrogate grand-parents who have played a role in their lives over the past 14 years that they have been with us...take a bow! And keep praying....

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement and support! Jacques and I are still in relatively good health and thankful for each day that God allows us to continue with ministry here.

We are thankful for each of you and pray for you to continue steadfast in the work of the Lord! God bless!!

Bev and Jacques

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