



OUTREACH JAMAICA
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Outreach Jamaica

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2023

UPDATE

Hello from hot, humid Jamaica! It's another beautiful, sunny day here with the 9 a.m. temperature already 90* and the feel-like 104*. This summer has been unusually hot, and we're aware that most of you are probably dealing with the same issue. It has also been unusually dry. Water storage tanks are empty, people without piped-water are scampering to buy water to truck in, and people who normally have piped water are experiencing lock-offs and only a few hours a day/week with water available. We are blessed in that our tank is large enough that we still have a little water left. Please pray with us that we get some rain...preferably without a hurricane attached! So far this year we haven't been threatened with any storms in our area, but we desperately need rain.

I'll work backwards over the past few months, starting with the best and most current news first. Jacques got a call from a young woman he's been visiting with over the past year who's mother and grandmother attend our congregation. She called on Thursday night (Aug 31) and said she had decided to give her life to the Lord and wanted to be baptized first thing the next morning! Because of the drought, it didn't give us time to purchase the water to fill the baptistery in Beecher Town, so arrangements were made to use the Ocho Rios pool. (We suggested the sea, but she's afraid of water) At 7 a.m Friday morning, September 1, with just a few of us present, Lisa was baptized into Christ! We give God thanks for her decision and the faithful prayers of so many for her over the years. Please pray with us for her as she grows in her faith and finds her place in the Body. She has some obstacles she's facing, so please pray with us that God will continue to move in her life as she works through them.



UPDATE (cont'd)

As part of our community outreach program, we have started having First Friday Family Fun Night at the church. Our first one was held on Friday, September 1, and we had over 50 people who came out from the church and community to play games, eat popcorn and drink fish tea and fellowship. Next month we will need to set up a tent outside to have enough room for everyone, as the fellowship hall was maxed out. We ended with a short devotion and prayer, and people asking if we can do it every Friday! For now, we're going to stick to once/monthly. It was fun introducing some new games (Yahtzee was a big hit) We had so much fun that we forgot to snap any pictures. Next month, Lord willing....

CAMP

As planned, we had 2 weeks of youth camp at River Head Christian Camp July 23-Aug 5. Let me start by saying that it would not have been possible for many of the young people to attend without the generosity of those of you who helped with sponsorship! With it being the first camp to be held since 2019 because of COVID, there were some hiccups along the way, but we're giving God praise for the response of those who attended! While attendance was lower than we had hoped, it was still a blessed time for all who were there. Junior week there were 38 children ages 9-13 who attended. Of the 38, 21 of them came forward to accept Christ as Savior! Many have already been baptized and follow-up is being done with the others with their ministers and guardians. Senior week saw 39 youth ages 14-18 attend and one baptism to date. Seeing these young people accept Christ is priceless! Please pray with us as they continue to grow in their young faith. Many come from some tragic and difficult backgrounds, from some dangerous communities. Pray that their hearts and minds will be guarded as they grow. You can see many more photos from the 2 weeks on our website.



RETREAT

With the decisions that were made at camp, we are even more excited for the upcoming youth retreat in November! The annual St Ann/St Mary Churches of Christ Youth Retreat will be held November 17-19. Our theme this year will be **"5G YOUTHS"** (1 Timothy 4:12) We will be focusing on God, Growth, Generosity, Greatness, Go.

The venue has almost doubled in price from last year. We've looked at other venues, and this is still one of the more inexpensive options. We will again need to be sponsoring many of the young people from our rural area churches so they can afford to attend. We've had to raise the fee by 15% due to inflation, even with the hopes of obtaining sponsorship for many of them. It will cost appx. \$60/person. If you would like to help sponsor a young person/young people, please let us or our forwarding agents know. You can donate by check through our WY office or PayPal (agapeharbor@yahoo.com). Please indicate YOUTH RETREAT when donating.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

School started back September 5, and we will be helping again this year with the Free Breakfast/Lunch Program for the at-risk children in the school community. The school was able to get some assistance from Food For The Poor with food items to begin, but will need our assistance to continue throughout the school year. Because of the generosity of donors, we have been able to maintain this program in the the schools, and even community members in need, for the past 3 1/2 years. With the constant price of inflation and the drought, we are finding more people in need, and the resources not stretching as far as they did previously.



In July, we were able to assist 55 families from the school community with bags to help them through the summer break. We were hoping to assist again in August, but due to lack of funds were unable to. If you would like to help us keep this much needed ministry going to assist the children at Beecher Town Infant and Primary School, please let us know!

On A Personal Note....

The end of July, we were blessed to have 2 of our sons and their families "home" from Wyoming for 2 weeks. Nic, Sierra and Kairo were here and we were able to celebrate Kairo's first birthday August 2! It was a blessing to be

able to spend time with them and get to know our first grandson better. The Saharan dust storms didn't bother Nic or Kairo's asthma, which was an answer to prayer! We also got precious time with Brady and Shanice, even though we had to share them with the in-laws. We're looking forward to Shamar coming home in October with 2 of his friends.

July also added some new members to the family as our son Roshane got married to a beautiful woman from Wyoming, Blessed. She has a daughter, Natalia, and son Jorge, so we have bonus blessings! They had a small ceremony, and we will join them in the US next year for a bigger celebration.

Megan's son, Carter, turned 6 months old today, and looks to be the same bundle of energy his mama is! The boy is never quiet...he "talks" all of the time....just like mama! We're anxious for Megan to get his passport so they can make a trip home for his 1st birthday in March, Lord willing.

Shamar is doing well. He's working full time and finishing up with school. He has one more exam to pass before graduating...math! Please pray for him, as he's struggling with it.

Our two foster girls both graduated in July; Telice from High School and Shelice, with her Associates of Arts in Humanities. We got Shelice settled into her dorm at UWI and after some initial excitement (dorm fire the first night, and online only for the first week due to COVID outbreak on campus) things have settled down and she seems to be doing well. We're really missing her, tho!



After another extended hospital and rehab stay in July, my mom is back at assisted living. She's not doing well, but well enough they allowed her to return there instead of a nursing home. Please keep her (Darlene) in your prayers.

We want to thank you all for your continued prayers, encouragement and financial support which are all so important in allowing us the privilege of ministering here! We are excited for the future and seeing how God moves in Jamaica. If you'd like to visit and help in some way, please let us know! We'd love to

host you or a group! Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers as well. God bless!

Jacques and Bev

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