



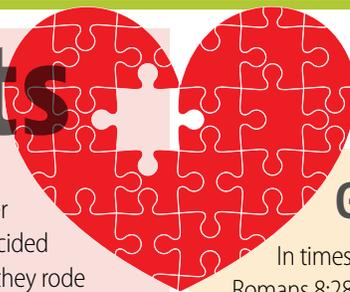
Heavy Hearts

On April 30, 2016, two of our missionaries, Harold Nichols and Randy Hentzel, were murdered in the mountains of Jamaica. Earlier that day, after visiting the site of our next housing project, they decided to ride their motorcycles over the mountain to enjoy the view. As they rode through a very remote area, they were ambushed and killed by two men who were lying in wait to kill someone else who never showed. It was a random, senseless act of violence. And while the two men are in custody awaiting trial, life will never be the same. We are not designed for this. Something of this magnitude is going to leave a mark.

The following three weeks were spent navigating the media blitz both in Jamaica and in the States, attending memorial services in Jamaica, Iowa and New York, and surrounding our two families with love and care. In the five months since, we have been picking up the pieces, evaluating the ministry, and seeking God's face regarding how to function in what has become the new reality.

Grief aftershocks

Having never experienced anything like this before, the depth of emotion and sudden onset of grief at unexpected and inconvenient times has been difficult. Multiply that by the number of people in our mission and life gets interesting. We are learning to take one day at a time and to focus on the rock that is higher than we are (Psalm 61:2).



2 Corinthians 4:1 *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart*

Great expectations

In times like these we take great comfort in verses like Romans 8:28 and in the stories of people like Jim Elliot (*Through the Gates of Splendor*) and Corrie Ten Boom (*The Hiding Place*). One of the ways we try to make sense of the senseless is to imagine the good that will come out of it. Our prayer is that Jamaica will be impacted like the tribes of Ecuador were and that lives will be changed for good by the experience. We are amazed at Elisabeth Elliot who served the same people who had murdered her husband, and at Corrie Ten Boom who survived and inspired so many with her story. And we begin to think that is how it works for everyone. But there were four other wives of missionaries murdered in Ecuador who did not return to minister. There were countless other anonymous people who did not survive the holocaust. But God is in charge of it all. Therefore, we must keep our eyes on Him and allow Him to guide us step by step, acknowledging that His ways are higher than our ways and His plans than our plans. Do we still expect great things? Yes, we do. But we hesitate to define what those great things will be, or even count on the fact that many people will get to observe them. Our call is to be faithful to what God tells us to do, and leave the results to Him.

Your continued support is needed

Life and ministry has changed for our mission family – it will never be the same. The stress, the struggle, and our dependency on God has increased a hundredfold.

1. Finances continue to be a stressor and we want to thank you for your generous contributions following the loss of Randy and Harold. Gifts have poured in for our Heartbeat fund and for the Nichols and Hentzel memorial funds (for Teri and Sara). These funds will remain open if you would like to continue to contribute to them.
2. The Heaters have been faithfully serving these past 3 years as the directors of the mission with less than full support. This is their full-time job and responsibility. They are \$1300/month short.

Now more than ever they need to be supported at 100%. They need to be able to focus all their attention on rebuilding the ministry versus raising support. Please pray with us that the Lord would supply the remainder of their monthly support.

3. The ministry will continue – please get the word out that we are looking for people to add to our team in Jamaica.
 - a. Teri and Sara are still missionaries – their ministry may look a little different, but they continue to minister

- b. J-Teams continue on schedule every February, May, August and November
- c. The Bible Training Center of Jamaica dedicated its new office and resource center – one of Randy's dreams
- d. October 9-16 – Team of builders headed to Jamaica to prep the backyard of TEAMS House for the start-up of Bible Club
- e. November 17 – The second class of the Bible Training Center of Jamaica will graduate



Still Worth the Risk

In the wake of losing Harold and Randy we need to address the issue of safety for our short-term mission teams. In our risk assessment we need to determine what bearing, if any, this violent act might have on the safety of our J-Teamers. There are three factors to consider: location, setting, and timing.

- 1. Location** — Harold and Randy were in a remote mountain region which was unfamiliar to them. Our J-Teams serve on every trip in the same clinics, schools, and area surrounding TEAMS House.
- 2. Setting** — Harold and Randy were alone in an abandoned area, far from watching eyes. Our J-Teamers travel as a group, serve as a group, return to TEAMS House as a group, and relax as a group. What little alone time there is takes place within the walls of TEAMS House.
- 3. Timing** — Before Harold and Randy’s deaths, the neighbors surrounding TEAMS House took it upon themselves to provide a type of neighborhood watch to protect our missionaries and J-Teamers. Since then, that vigilance has increased and they have assured us that they will be alert to any security issues pertaining to our property, missionaries, and J-Teamers.

Unlike Harold and Randy, the victims of violence are usually Jamaicans themselves or those involved in illegal activities. Visitors to Jamaica on missions trips are generally appreciated and left alone. What happened to Harold and Randy is not common — in fact, Jamaica as a country and as citizens were shocked and outraged. Does this mean that we can guarantee everyone’s safety? The answer is no — we never have nor will we ever be able to guarantee everyone’s safety. But the reality is that our missionaries and J-Teamers are safer now than they ever were before. What we need to remember is that in serving the Lord, we are never guaranteed safety. God has called us to love Him and serve others and in doing so, glorify Him.

Celebrating Harold and Randy

RAY SHIVE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF T4MM: an excerpt of what he shared about Harold at his memorial service in New York.

After the missionary William Borden died, there was found written in the flyleaf of his New Testament the watchwords of his life: No Reserve, No Retreat, No Regret – these apply to Harold.

No RESERVE - running on fumes, nothing left in the tank, visiting, checking up on people, arranging for their care, fixing their houses, taking them food, making sure they had their meds, changing dressings, giving rides, emergency and non-emergency runs to hospitals (sometimes paying their bills), always intentionally representing Christ. And Harold was a man of the Word. The man God uses is a man of God with the Word of God.

No RETREAT - advancing, moving forward, seizing opportunities. The day before Harold died, undaunted by the \$100,000+ price tag, he and others were walking through the property adjacent to TEAMS House with the idea that if the mission could buy it, it would provide scope for wonderful new ministry opportunities. Harold was not a status quo kind of guy.

No REGRET - Harold shunned evil. There was not a hint of wrong in his speech or in his behavior. He knew who he was in Christ and who Christ was in him and I have to believe that he lived and died with few, or no regrets. In fact, I think of Paul the Apostle writing in Philippians chapter 1 of his eager expectation and hope that in life or death, he would not be ashamed.

I believe that the Hebrews chapter 11, Faith Hall of Heroes is still being populated. By now, after centuries of church history, it is massive. Still, there is room there for you and for me . . . someday. But today, Harold Nichols has already taken his place.



SHAWN KINNISON, COMMUNITY LIFE PASTOR OF GRACE CHURCH:

On May 9th a memorial service was held to honor and celebrate the life of Randy Hentzel. The service was attended by more than 1500 people from the Des Moines area, Jamaica, and the Eastern United States. Many remembrances were shared by family, friends and ministry partners to pay tribute to a life well lived and dedicated to family and ministry. A message of hope in Jesus Christ was shared by remembering that Randy had a Living Hope and an eternal inheritance which he not only received on that fateful day, but lived out in his life, home, and ministry. Randy fought the good fight, he endured until the end and is receiving the reward for his work. Randy will be missed by hundreds of friends and family throughout the US and Jamaica.

NICKALOUS WALSH, BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE OF JAMAICA:

Like a comet traveling at full speed, the glory of Randy Hentzel struck our homeland with its full strength. Dismantling the bonds of division, burning away the heavy burdens and igniting an unquenchable fire within our souls. His flames blazed steadfastly even on the wettest dawn, the intense high temperature emanating from his life is more than what one soul could bear, thus we had to transmit his love. Little did we know but this comet was different, upon colliding into St. Mary it exploded pulling the hearts of godly men and women together to orchestrate a Bible Training Center unlike any other. Such combustions were not hindered by denominations neither could weak pockets quench it. The after effects were insanely fruitful! Over four shocks in four years and the BTCJ (Bible Training Center of Jamaica) is still growing and getting even hotter. Randy Hentzel fire still burns within our souls! We miss him, yes! But we have a nation to engulf with his flames of love!

Tribute for Harold and Randy by John Heater

Harold Nichols – brother Nick

Harold, or brother Nick as he was often called, was a Jamaican: He assimilated well in Jamaica, spoke fluent patois, loved Jamaica and her people, and viewed Jamaica as his home – but now he’s really home.

His life was marked by relational ministry: he knew everyone on the island; built over 60 homes – continually following up on house recipients; delivered food, visited shut-ins, provided transportation; was a surrogate father to Bible Club kids; and was father, mentor, life coach to 20-somethings who came through Bible Club.

Harold had a pastor’s heart: he often preached in many different churches, providing help to overworked pastors; he would follow up patients after clinics who needed to talk; he volunteered for years with Teen Challenge in Jamaica – his impact was wide and deep; he and Teri did pre-marital counseling for many couples on the island.

Harold served as Field Director: he and Teri oversaw the ministry in Jamaica; he faithfully carried out the vision/ mission of TEAMS for Medical Missions; he educated me in all things Jamaican; he was the hardest worker I have ever known – sun up to sun down, he worked hard and played hard; he commanded love and respect – I am proud to have called him my friend.

Randy Hentzel – the big man

Randy stood head and shoulders over most people – in more ways than one. He was a man of vision, energy, and passion. And there seemed to be very little that he could not do.

He and Sara founded the Bible Training Center of Jamaica, and laid a foundation that has enabled it to continue even now in his absence. Because of Randy, 23 graduated last October: he gave rides, tutored students, visited them in their homes,

he upheld, strengthened, and encouraged his students and prospective students.

He was an awesome dad: Randy dearly loved his kids and trained them well for life and ministry – it was fun to watch – and the steel that is in his kids and their ability to continue to live life to the full is a testimony of a job well done.

Randy believed in holistic ministry creating work opportunities for his students and providing skill development training for long-term impact.

He was an entrepreneur: Randy was always thinking and rethinking, revamping, refining, creating; he was always 5 steps ahead, assessing and planning; as our clinic coordinator he was always seeking to come up with better ways to make the clinic run smoother and meet more needs. He was one of the smartest guys I know; a man of conviction, compassion and character; he commanded love and respect – I am proud to have called him my friend.

As a Ministry

We are staying – we will hobble for awhile – pray for us as we seek God’s direction on how to carry out the ministry. He has called us to going

forward. We will never be able to replace Harold and Randy, nor would we try – but we do want to honor their service, memory, and passion. We love Harold and Randy and are looking forward to the day when we get to see them again and minister again side by side.



trained them, and provided what they needed to succeed. Seventeen of those graduates became part of the leadership team that is leading the Training Center now.

Randy was an encourager: he ministered to and with many local pastors and ministries;

A Huge Thank You...

... to the May J-Teamers who were asked to stand down at the very last minute due to the nature of our circumstances.

... to the Pharmacy team who agreed at the last minute, just days after our men were taken, to join us to address the most critical of our patient needs.

... to East Randolph United Methodist in New York and First

Family Church in Iowa for their care and commitment to Teri and Sara and their families.

... to those special friends and family members who were there for Teri and for Sara and family – who were willing to drop everything and travel, just to be there.

... to the many who have given of their time and money to be a support

to T4MM and her individual family members – may your tribe increase.

... to the August J-Team, enabling us to keep our promise to return with a full team and enabling us to be a huge encouragement to our Jamaican friends.

... to the many who are praying for us, sending words of encouragement, and signing up for future J-Teams.

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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Vital Signs

FALL 2016



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H E A R T B E A T

by
John Heater

Micah 6:8 - *He has showed you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Two men in Jamaica have been taken into custody and charged with the murders of Harold and Randy. Will justice be served? Not sure. How do we feel about that? Not sure. Micah 6:8 says we are to do justly – our Jamaican friends desperately desire justice to be served. Micah 6:8 also says to love mercy – when we would ask them what Harold and Randy would have wanted for these two men who murdered them, they would pause and say, “to put their trust in Christ” – but our friends struggle with that. Finally, Micah 6:8 says to walk humbly with your God – the key to that delicate balance of justice and mercy. Pray for these

two men, Andre and Dwight, that they would be drawn to Christ and put their trust in Him. And pray for us and our Jamaican friends as we seek to walk humbly with our God.

John

