

Vital Signs

Luke 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

Matthew 1:20 . . . behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

Celebrating...Trusting... Resting...Anticipating

Can you imagine? What must Mary and Joseph have been thinking? feeling? fearing? The God of the universe was calling on them to accept a life-changing circumstance to fulfill His plan for His glory. He was entrusting them with this incredible gift – but a gift that would bring them pain and suffering amid joy. We can learn much from their experience in how to handle our own life-changing circumstances. This news rocked their world! Life would never be the same – their first response was disbelief coupled with fear. How could this be? How are we supposed to handle this? This isn't even fair. How will people respond? How are we supposed to deal with this? Their second response was to accept it as from God and to trust Him, realizing they were simply part of God's larger plan, the plan to glorify Himself, and they had the privilege of playing a part in that plan coming to fruition. So they moved into the unknown, resting on the known:

1 God loves us, He knows our pain, and He is there for us. Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us Jesus understands our pain because He has been through something similar and He provides us with mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.

2 God has a plan and He is working that plan. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that His plan involves giving us a future and a hope. While God's plan is not about us, it does involve us.

God's plan is about Himself – it revolves around Him – it is to bring Him glory. Along the way it also benefits us. It is a privilege to be a part of God's plan, even though we only play a small part – even though we may not see the impact our small part makes. Romans 8:28 tells us that God will use all the parts of our lives together to accomplish our good – and in that we can rest.

3 The life-changing circumstance that God gives us provides us with the opportunity to trust Him and obey Him. Trusting often involves waiting. Lamentations 3:24-26 says, “*The LORD is my portion, says my soul, Therefore I have hope in Him.*”²⁵ *The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.*²⁶ *It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the LORD.* And Psalm 37:34 says, *Wait for the LORD, and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.* Waiting can be very difficult. But waiting is required. Remember, life is not about us, it is not about our time table, it is not about our security – it is about Him. Wait. Trust. Obey. Be ready to take that next step when God reveals what that next step is.

As a ministry we are in that waiting mode. While we wait we continue to work and to prepare. We continue to trust and obey. And we are ready to take that next step when God chooses to reveal that next step to us.



JAMAICA

because God is at work



Giving Opportunity:
if you would like to give toward the cost of medicines, please indicate:
Medicine

Our J-Team ministry is still going strong. Our latest team in November was met with appreciation and relief as our Jamaican friends now understand that we will continue to bring teams to address their medical and spiritual needs. We have openings on our 2017 J-Teams, specifically May, August, and November. Come join us and be blessed as you are a blessing to others.

For quite some time now we have been seeking someone to serve as our BTCJ Coordinator in Jamaica. With the loss of Randy

our BTCJ leadership team has needed to function without a leader. They have remained faithful and are doing an excellent job of keeping our classes running, but after seven months are growing weary. During our last J-Team, we were able to have discussions with

Pastor Paul Hemmings and he has agreed to step into the position of BTCJ Coordinator! Pastor Hemmings is not new to us as he has served as a BTC instructor and is planting a church near TEAMS House in Stewart Town that we have been seeking to support in whatever way we are able. Under his leadership, BTC is now back on schedule to begin three new classes in early 2017!

Giving Opportunity:
if you would like to give toward Pastor Hemmings monthly support, please indicate:
BTC Leadership



Giving Opportunity:
if you would like to give towards T4MM's overall ministry, please indicate:
Heartbeat



PLEASE PRAY...

- ... for wisdom as we determine the next step
- ... for additional personnel on the ground in Jamaica
- ... for Pastor Hemmings as he leads the Bible Training Center of Jamaica
- ... for volunteers for our 2017 J-Teams

Join our Team!

Our mission is to strengthen and encourage the local churches of Jamaica. We do this through full-time missionaries on the ground and 9-day quarterly mission trips from the States. We serve as the family doctor for about 1,000 people in St. Mary Parish, Jamaica, we train pastors and church leaders, and we minister to children and teenagers. With the tragic homegoing of two of our missionaries on April 30, we now consist of five full-time missionaries and three part-time staff. We are seeking additional help on the ground in Jamaica.

Qualities Desired:

Passionate – committed to being “all in” with no reservations, understanding that God has called you to this ministry

Dreamer – serves a big God, has an active imagination, thinks outside the box, is wise but not over cautious

Self-aware and self-confident – able to work alone with limited oversight as well as be a good team player

Strong internal fortitude – Jamaica is a difficult place to minister – many have left the field after a few years

Entrepreneurial spirit – able to assess needs and develop ministry to meet those needs, understanding failure and struggle are part of success

Detailed big picture thinker – able to envision ministry framework and develop a detailed plan to accomplish it

Ministry Opportunities:

Short-term opportunities

We have a variety of needs and the job description could be tailored to the individual/couple/ family. This is an excellent opportunity to experience immersion into missions to see if this is where God is calling you to serve. The length of time is negotiable.

Long-term opportunities

We need full-time, long-term ministry partners. If you are not sure, consider serving in a short-term capacity and see where God leads.

The opportunities listed below can be tailored as either short-term opportunities or long-term opportunities. It is possible that one or more of these skill sets could be embodied in an individual or a couple. Job descriptions will be tailored to the skill set or skill set combination.

1. Children/Youth – help minister to 100+ children/youth; help reach this ministry’s full potential

2. Pastoral – follow up with people; help local ministers’ fraternal; teach seminars; minister to missionary staff; provide pulpit supply; aid local churches

3. Exploration Mission Trips – plan and lead teams of college age and up in all areas of our ministry – 10-14 days each

4. Construction – build houses, develop relationships and follow up house recipients

5. Facility Caretaker – jack of all trades, groundskeeper, problem solver, keep all things mechanical running smoothly on the physical property

6. Administration – handle records, paperwork, charitable status, banking, documentation, permits, Jamaican tax returns, J-Team logistics, etc.

7. Bible Training Center of Jamaica – assist Jamaican leadership team in expansion, training, teaching, follow-up, planning, accountability, organization, etc.

8. Medical – follow up patients between J-Teams; provide health education; be the liaison with Jamaican government

- ➔ Feel called to a specific ministry but not a specific location? Let’s talk.
- ➔ Feel called to missions but without specifics? Let’s talk.
- ➔ Enjoy creating something and building it from the ground up? Let’s talk.
- ➔ Enjoy people, serving people, training people, empowering people? Let’s talk.



Interested in joining us?

Contact us at
610-398-0070
for more information



THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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WINTER 2016



TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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H E A R T B E A T

by
John Heater

I am not very good at waiting. I like knowing the bottom line and getting to it quickly. I like the big picture. I like words such as "complete", "finished", "accomplished", "done". I do not even mind the process as long as I can see the finish line. But having to wait, well that is just undesirable. God, on the other hand, seems to enjoy the waiting process – at least He tends to employ it often in life. His Word even extols the virtue of waiting. I guess it is because waiting requires looking to Him for the next step. Relying on Him to fill the void, the silence, while we wait. Relinquishing

control over the timing and process. Allowing Him to define success, accomplishment, purpose. So while I wait, I choose to trust Him, and to take this time to rest, refusing to fill the time doing my own works, but instead, being obedient, doing what I am called to do while waiting for the next step. So while I wait, why not tell me what God is doing in your life.

John

