THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM
TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS
FALL 2017

Vital Signs

Counting our Blessings

"The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes." ***10,000 Reasons*** by Matt Redman

We serve an amazing God! These past 18 months we have experienced the grace, mercy, and care of our loving God and His faithful followers. We have weathered as a team some of the hardest things we have ever had to face as a Mission – the sudden loss of two dear co-workers/ friends/ husbands/ fathers, the loss of our former director's wife/ co-worker/ friend, the change of ministry organizations for Teri and Sara, the loss of a ground team in Jamaica, the increased number of hats we have each had to wear, the struggle to fill J-Teams, and the resulting hit we have taken as an organization financially. We have often wondered if this was the beginning of the end of TEAMS for Medical Missions, wondering how much to share for fear of it becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. But the Lord was there each step of the way, and His Spirit was constantly comforting, guiding, prodding, encouraging us to keep taking the next step, to keep doing the next right thing. Having never experienced something like this, I didn't think it would take this long to start feeling somewhat normal again and to be able to get back to functioning at 100%. It has taken everything we had to just keep moving. But we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel, and hope is becoming a reality. Matt Redman has written another song, Blessed Be Your Name, which has really spoken to us. The chorus says, "Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say, blessed be the Name of the Lord." Whether life is hard and messy, or easy and neat, still we will choose to bless the Name of our Lord. We are coming through one of the hardest, messiest times of our Mission, for which we choose to bless the Name of our Lord. But He has also been blessing us in some very tangible ways, and for that we choose to bless His Holy Name. Praise the Lord for a new day dawning – it's time to sing His praises!

BIG BLESSINGS – Rejoice with us

#1 – New Stateside Ministry Partners

- Ministry Partners: We have received many one-time gifts over the past few months and have added a few regular financial partners to our team! This is such a blessing and we are looking forward to ministering together.
- 1st time J-Teamers: We have added a number of brand new J-Teamers this year and they have brought new ideas and new enthusiasm to the team. May their tribe increase.

#2 – Connecting with Ministry Partners

- Anne, Linda and I traveled out to Ohio to visit with two churches, John Knox Presbyterian and Park United Methodist, who have been faithful ministry partners with us for many years. Not only were they an encouragement to us, they also served as a catalyst for other churches and individuals to be introduced to us and the ministry. They hosted a couple of gatherings for area pastors along with individuals who might be interested in joining a J-Team. We are hopeful that a few more ministry partners may emerge from these visits.
- Anne also travelled to North Carolina where she visited with 5 churches and a number of individuals. They too were very encouraging to her and she to them. Visiting with ministry partners is one of the many perks of this ministry.

#3 – Ministry Partners in Jamaica

- Joe and Elaine Ramcharan have been part of our ministry team in Jamaica for over 10 years. They not only transport our J-Teams back and forth from the airport and clinics, they also are involved with our ministry throughout the week. Elaine serves with us in the clinics and Joe helps us host the team in Montego Bay. When J-Teams are not on the island, the Ramcharans continue to help in so many practical ways with TEAMS House, vehicles, and handling Jamaican bureaucracy. They are more than partners, they are friends.
- Yvette, Avery and Mitsy are our faithful ministry partners when a J-Team is on the island, caring for food preparation, for the house, and as part of our hospitality team. When a J-Team is not present, Mitsy cares for TEAMS House, keeping it in tip top shape.
- Our most recent ministry partners are Danny and Grace Myers. The Myers are with Spicy Grove Ministries and have been friends of T4MM for many years. When we lost our ground team in Jamaica, we were concerned about how we would care for TEAMS House and the vehicles. Danny and Grace have stepped in and are serving as Caretakers of the house and property. But they have grown into more than caretakers – our friendship has deepened and they have become a huge asset for us. What a blessing they are to this ministry.

#4 – Healthy, vibrant ministry to pastors and church leaders (Bible Training Center of Jamaica)

- Paul Hemmings started out as an instructor in our BTC program, but last year accepted the roll of BTC Coordinator. Under his leadership the school has continued to grow. We have new classes starting throughout the year spreading into surrounding parishes. He is also recruiting and training new instructors to be able to keep up with the increased classes.
- The BTC Leadership Team continues to be a huge asset to Paul, assisting him in the organization and operation of the program that is slowly beginning to spread out of Port Maria.
- Continue to pray for our instructors as they are the key to the program remaining true to its roots and making it reproduceable for future classes. Their role is to not only teach, but to mentor and disciple these church leaders.
- We have two classes that have graduated and a third ready to graduate in April, 2018. These men and women are impacting their churches and communities in ways that are getting noticed. God is at work in Jamaica and it is a privilege to be a part of it!
- Pray for our students. We have about 80 enrolled at present with two more classes to begin very soon. It takes dedication, commitment, and time to finish this 3½ year program. Many are working full-time jobs and doing ministry at the same time as attending classes. Pray for their stamina and their resolve to finish and finish well.

Update on Sara Hentzel

As of September 1, Sara is officially with Wycliffe Bible Translators, and as soon as her support is fully raised, she will serve as a missionary software programmer! We will miss her but we are excited for her as she follows God's leading to use her gifts and talents for His kingdom. Please continue to pray for her and support her financially in her new ministry. T4MM will no longer be able to receive finances for Sara, so please redirect your giving for her to Wycliffe. You may support her online at www.wycliffe.org/partner/give-to-the-ministry-of-my-wycliffe-missionary (specify Hentzel/273562) or mail support checks to: Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862 with a note included specifying the ministry of Hentzel/273562.

BIG IDEAS – Pray with us

- Under the leadership of Pastor Paul Hemmings, we are making plans to expand the BTC program across the whole island. This was Randy's vision and it is exciting to see it beginning to happen. The keys to expansion are well-trained instructors for each new class and the structure to ensure accountability, support, and encouragement. Finances also play a part.
- We are looking to add more missionaries to our growing team. We are looking in the States but we are also looking in Jamaica to see if God raises up anyone to join our team. Pray for wisdom and discernment.
- We are also exploring different ways to use TEAMS House more fully as a ministry center. Again, pray for wisdom and discernment.

BIG OPPORTUNITIES – Join with us

- **Personnel**
  - > We are looking to fill all four of our 2018 J-Teams. We will begin using builders again on the J-Teams starting February, 2018. Our building focus will be on ministering to our clinic churches plus a few others, as well as coming alongside homeowners we have built homes for in the past. We need doctors, nurses, pharmacists, a clinic clerk, teachers, encouragers, and builders for every team. Pick a team, sign up, and bring a friend. This is a great first missions trip – spread the word.
  - > We are looking to add full-time people to our growing ground team in Jamaica – both short and long-term. Check out our website, give us a call, and let's talk. Perhaps God has plans for you in Jamaica.
- **Finances**
  - > Due to the circumstances of these past 18 months, as a mission we have taken a significant financial hit. James 4:2 says, *You do not have because you do not ask.* So I am asking, if you are a regular financial ministry partner, please consider increasing your regular gift. If you are an occasional financial ministry partner, please consider giving more frequently. And if you have never given, please consider giving a one-time end of the year gift. We need additional monthly financial ministry partners for every area of our ministry.

> **HEARTBEAT FUND: $2,500/MONTH SHORT**
Our Heartbeat fund finances the parts of the ministry that are central to the viability of our organization such as operational funds, office salaries, rent, communications, public relations, ministry travel, etc. making it extremely vital. The last three months we have not had to cut into savings for Heartbeat expenses, due to one-time gifts, but prior to that we were running about a $2,500 deficit each month. Please consider becoming a monthly financial ministry partner for our Heartbeat fund.

> **MEDICINE FUND: $4,000/TRIP**
Our Medicine fund finances the purchase of all medicine used in Jamaica on our J-Teams. When we have a surplus, we are able to be better stewards of the finances by shopping ahead for needed medicine and purchasing them at best prices, versus only being able to purchase medicine for the next J-Team and often at the last minute. It costs $4,000 per trip to provide the medicine for the 2500+ prescriptions we fill each J-Team. Please consider becoming a monthly financial ministry partner for our Medicine fund.

> **RENOVATION PROJECT: $5,000**
The back Veranda of TEAMS House in Jamaica is sorely in need of renovation. The outside portion of the veranda is painted cement, requiring repainting a couple times a year. The inside tiled portion is slowly breaking up due to use and weather. We need to re-tile the inside and extend the tile to the outside. This will enable us to minimize the maintenance required. We also would like to expand the eating area to accommodate more people and give us more options. And finally, we would like to add hurricane proof awnings to protect the veranda and house from wind and water damage. The cost for the entire project will be about $5,000 and we would like to get it done between J-Teams.

> **BTCJ NEW CLASS START-UP: $1,800 (class of 24); $75/student**
BTCJ is expanding! We have two new classes starting this Fall, one in Buff Bay and the other in Guys Hill. We have two other classes anxious to start, waiting on instructors and funds. BTCJ is both healthy and growing – please pray for its leadership, the training of new instructors,

strategic placement of new classes, and the start-up funding for each new class. Each student pays their own way, but start-up funds are needed to get the classes up and running. One-time gifts are welcome and needed. The BTCJ would also benefit from having monthly financial ministry partners to defray the costs not covered in tuition.

> **NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES FUND AND CONSTRUCTION FUND**
During 2018 we will resume ministering to the children in the local neighborhood of TEAMS House and aiding churches and locals in areas of construction and repair. As always, our focus will be on building relationships and meeting physical and spiritual needs. Please consider giving to or becoming monthly ministry partners of either the NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES FUND or the CONSTRUCTION FUND.

> **TELEVISION PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY: $2,500 – 9,800**
Three weeks ago from this writing I was asking the Lord for some major help in raising finances for the Mission. I was running out of ideas and crying out to Him to supply our needs. When I finished praying, I received a phone call from Annette Reich of Answering the Call, a cable TV series whose purpose is to highlight ministries that are focused on evangelism and discipleship and give them a forum to tell their stories. Their desire is to encourage and inspire believers to follow their calling by showcasing ministries that are doing just that. Their organization is called Horizon Media Studios based in Florida and reaches a potential of 1.5 million viewers across the United States. If this is something you would like to help us take advantage of, please let us know. The costs range from $2,500 to $9,800 depending on how much of the 30-minute show would be dedicated to our ministry. The show would be aired between 6-8 times and we would have all the rights and access to the footage for our use. Questions? Please give me a call.

$2,500 for 6-7 minutes
$4,900 for 13-14 minutes (2 segments)
$7,500 for 20-21 minutes (3 segments)
$9,800 for 28-minute full episode

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HEARTBEAT

by
John Heater

It is a humbling thing to be called of God to minister. Being called to partner with God is an amazing privilege and responsibility. At times, the specifics of the ministry we are called to become overwhelming or just plain undesirable. The thought of quitting can often come to mind — as if doing something other than what God calls us to do would be fulfilling. But those thoughts still come. In my Bible reading I came across 1 Corinthians 7:17 — ***Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.*** What an encouragement! I am called and I have received an assignment from the God of the Universe! Quitting is not an option. And I am not alone. The future here at T4MM is bright and God is moving — and I have the privilege of being assigned this post. How about you? Are you fulfilling your assignment? It is the only way to experience the abundant life.

Keep lookin' up,

John