

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

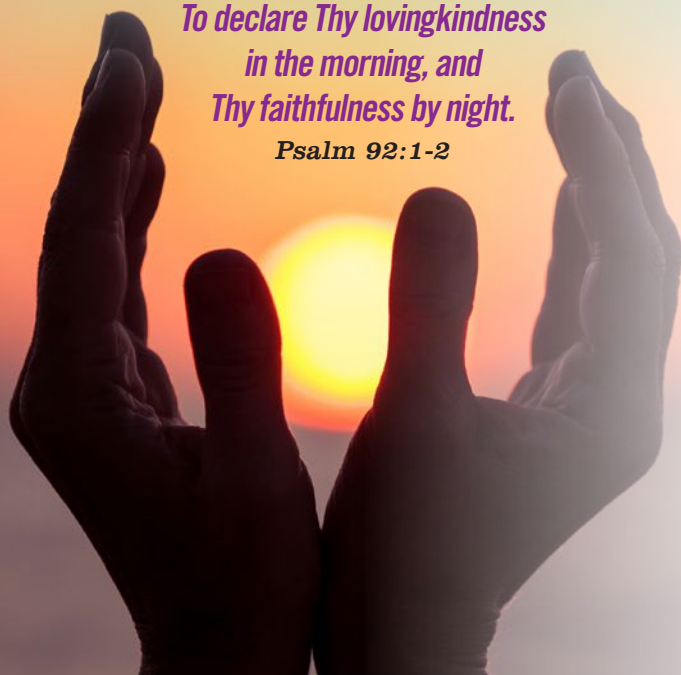
WINTER 2018



Can I Get a Witness?

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High; To declare Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness by night.

Psalm 92:1-2



We serve a God who knows no bounds, has no limitations, is above all, through all, in all, over all, and who loves us. He has a plan to reach the world with the gospel and that plan includes us. He also has a plan to grow us into His likeness and to impact all those around us. Romans 5 tells us that while we exalt in hope of the glory of God, we are also to exalt in tribulations as they are the catalyst for our spiritual growth. So whether things are going well or life is a hardship – we have much to be thankful for. God is still at work in Jamaica and He is still at work in each of our lives. I asked four of our dear friends who have partnered with us on a number of different J-Teams over the years to give a testimony of God’s goodness, God’s love, and God’s work in their lives as it relates to their involvement with TEAMS for Medical Missions. But before we hear from them, I wanted to share an encouraging note from one of our supporting churches.

Thanks for the encouragement!

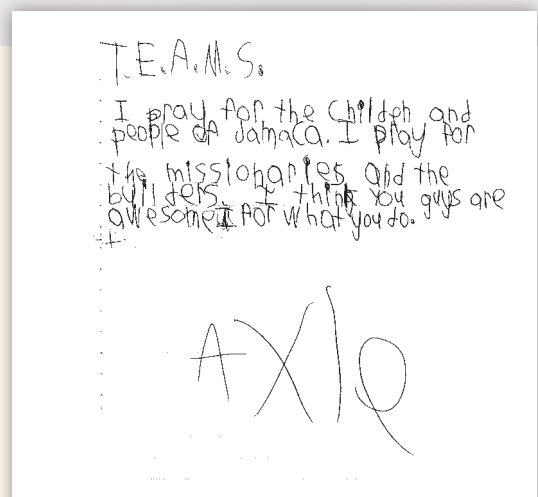
Dear Folks of T4MM,

Enclosed is a note written by a little fellow during Sunday School at Bible Baptist Church in Breinigsville. His teacher asked that we send it off to you.

As our Missions Committee seeks to spur increased awareness and prayer for those we help support, Axle’s note brought a smile and the encouragement we hope will do the same for you.

Loraine

Yes it did! Thank you Axle. We look forward to the day you join us on a J-Team!



Testimonies from a few of our J-Team Veterans

The Construction Ministry Is Back!

The February team re-initiated the construction ministry. Since there were only two builders on the team, the project was smaller than prior projects. The team worked at the basic school that is attached to Hamilton Mountain New Testament Assembly, the church that hosts the Monday clinic. The school is immediately up the hill from the church. The project consisted of adding a lunch room with tables and benches to the school, paint and other maintenance for the building.

I admit that this experience was bittersweet. Everything reminded me of my past projects and Harold. I missed Harold's humor. I didn't get to see him on the roof. We painted the entire interior of the school and Harold hated to paint. This experience just wasn't the same.

In spite of this, the ministry has taken a baby step forward. It is important for TEAMS to take this step and steps beyond this one. The building team is very visible to the community since the projects remain after the team returns to the U.S. The builders have the opportunity to establish relationships with both helpers on the site and interested neighbors. The builders share love and faith with these participants. We challenge them to understand why strangers would come to Jamaica to spend a week in hard work.

The building team will never be quite the same without Harold there and I hope future builders don't expect it to be the same. However by continuing this legacy, we can continue a phase of the ministry that was very important to his heart. The community needs the results of our labor and continuing the ministry is a memorial to the heart of Harold Nichols.



Larry Wiggins



Susie Partridge

2016 on our clinic day at Hamilton Mountain, Angela was found to have very high blood pressure – not an uncommon occurrence. What made it complicated was the fact that she was 20 weeks pregnant. None of our pressure medicines are safe in pregnancy. The danger to both mother and child was very great. This situation required more than a bag of pills and reassurance.

Making a Difference

One of the coolest things about going on multiple J-Teams is being able to follow up on people and see the resolutions to their medical conditions. For me, the November 2017 J-Team was one of those times. Back in November

When I talked to Angela she didn't seem too concerned, but I was. After obtaining a referral and taxi fare I had another talk with Angela. I told her that I was very concerned and that her life and the life of her baby was at risk. She needed to be at the hospital. Angela and her mother left the clinic and I wasn't all that sure that they would follow up at the hospital. I needed to let go and move on to other patients.

On the February J-Team the grandmother made it a point of finding me and letting me know that Angela had gone to the hospital, had received the necessary care, and delivered a healthy, 5½ pound baby girl just a few weeks before. What a joy to know all was well. On Thursday of the November 2017 J-Team I was introduced to "my baby", Sasha-Gay, a beautiful, healthy 9-month old. The grandmother introduced her to me by saying, "Here is your baby, thank you for all you did." What a blessing to a part of God's medical team!

Falling in Love with the Jamaican People

My first J-Team trip was back in November of 2014. On this trip I had a chance to serve with my parents and my son which was such a blessing. My parents are veteran J-Teamers and have been on a number of trips, so I heard about Jamaica and their ministry for years, but nothing could prepare me for my first trip. During this trip I fell in love with the people of Jamaica. When you look at what they have or don't have and how they praise the Lord and are grateful through it all, it just makes you want to keep going back. At the clinics people start arriving at 3 o'clock in the morning just to get their name on the list. Normally, people would be complaining about the wait, but not these people. While setting up for clinic one day I heard people singing "if you know the Lord is keeping you what are you worried about, singing glory hallelujah praise His name. . .", they were clapping and singing praises to the Lord, not complaining. Even today it starts to bring tears to my eyes just remembering how they just keep praising the Lord through everything. Since November 2014 I have been back to Jamaica three more times and am preparing for my fifth trip this February 2018, each time serving in a different capacity. I start missing Jamaica and the people as soon as I get on the plane to come home.



Beth Gambone

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Finances:

We need an additional \$2,500 per month for our Heartbeat fund and \$4,000 per month for our Medicine Fund. Please pray about becoming a regular monthly supporter to either of these funds.

2. Missionaries:

We are looking for short-term and long-term missionaries – please keep your eyes and ears open, spread the news, and pray about joining us!

Continuing the Work

My decision to return to Jamaica and join the May 2017 team was very difficult. Our two field missionaries and dear friends, Harold Nichols and Randy Hentzel, were tragically and senselessly killed a year before. I was asked repeatedly, "Are you ever going back? Don't you fear for your safety?"

Without hesitation I would reply, "Yes, I am going back, and I have never feared for my safety, because I know God is in control and watches over me."

But I didn't know if I wanted to go back. In the blink of an eye, everything had changed. It was always a pleasure to return to my Jamaican family, as I had become very familiar with the workings of the ministry and it had become very easy and extremely fun to go. All the joy that was there had been removed. I have come to realize that the decision is not mine. It is the Lord's. This mission is not for my comfort and pleasure. I am going so I may please the Lord, as He keeps calling me to help those who have no other means of obtaining medical care and life-saving medications. In John 4:34 Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Seeds have been planted and as one of God's stewards, it is my responsibility to help cultivate this crop. It is my responsibility to continue spreading the Word of God and to continue the good works that have been started by Harold and Randy. It would be a great dishonor to these two godly men, who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, not to continue the work they have begun. I would also be dishonoring my Lord.

I am so grateful that I heeded the Lord's urging and returned to serve in Jamaica. The need is still great. It is clear to me that we need to accept change, adapt to change, and rebuild. I am encouraged to learn that TEAMS' vision has not changed, that they are pursuing new opportunities, and will continue to do God's work in Jamaica. I am honored to be a member of TEAMS and to continue the work that has been started by Harold and Teri Nichols, and Randy and Sara Hentzel.



Kathy Geist

Updates

- 1. Finances:** Thank you, thank you, thank you! We asked for \$25,000 to end the year in the black, and the Lord supplied \$28,000 through your generous gifts!
- 2. Renovation Project:** the back veranda has been regraded, newly tiled, and awnings installed. This not only solves our water problem but has also made the veranda much more versatile for ministry going forward.

3. Bible Training Center of Jamaica

Class	Location	Instructor(s)	Graduation	Students
BTC 1	Port Maria	Randy Hentzel	November 2015	23 graduates
BTC 2	Port Maria	Randy Hentzel/ Nickalous Walsh	November 2016	11 graduates
BTC 3	Highgate	Nickalous Walsh/ Michael McGregor	February 2018	7 graduates
BTC 4	Annotto Bay	Rafael Thomas	2019	12
BTC 5	Port Maria	Paul Hemmings	2020	12
BTC 6	Port Maria	Michael McGregor	2021	18
BTC 7	Ocho Rios	Paul Hemmings	2021	18
*BTC 8	Highgate	Michael McGregor/ Ryan Hewitt	2022	24
*BTC 9	Guys Hill	Denzel Greaves	2022	24

*Starting within the next 2 months



- 4. TV Program Opportunity:** upon further review, we determined utilizing other opportunities made more sense financially.

3. J-Teams:

We have openings on all of our 2018 J-Teams – please pray about joining us and about recruiting others.

2018 Openings	May 5-13	Aug 4-12	Nov 3-11
3 Doctors	☑☑☐	☑☐☐	☑☑☐
2 Nurses	☑☑	☑☐	☑☐
Patient Screener	☑	☑	☐
4 Pharmacists	☑☑☐☐	☑☑☑☐	☑☑☑☐
2 Clinic Clerks	☑☐	☐☐	☐☐
3-5 Builders	☐☐☐☐	☑☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐
2-3 Teachers	☑☑☐	☑☑☑	☑☐☐
1-2 Encouragers	☑☐	☐☐	☑☐

4. April 26 – May 1

our T4MM Board will be holding our quarterly board meeting in Jamaica. We will be taking this time to meet with a variety of ministry leaders and to seek God's face and direction as we determine next steps to carry out the vision God has given us for Jamaica.



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TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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Vital Signs

WINTER 2018

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H E A R T B E A T

by
John Heater

The Value of Serving on a J-Team

Serving is a huge part of the Christian Life—it is what we are designed for, serving others. From the very beginning we were created to meet others' needs and allow others to meet our needs. Jesus Himself said He came to serve, not to be served (Mark 10:45). Service comes in many forms—with family, with friends, with people you meet for the first time. But there is something special about serving on a missions trip — the impact is three-fold: on those you are serving, on those who stay behind and support you, and on self.

On those you are serving: what makes our J-Teams unique is that we go back to the same people every quarter—the relationships we have built as a mission are ongoing, so the impact is ongoing.

On those who stay behind and support you: having a prayer and financial support team

behind you enables others to partner with you in the ministry to our Jamaican friends. As a result, you are a blessing both to Jamaica and to your support team.

On self: I have led many missions trips in my life as a pastor and I have never had anyone come back from one unchanged. Our J-Teams are a catalyst for growth spiritually, emotionally, socially, rationally, volitionally, and relationally.

Why a J-Team? It is only a 9-day commitment, it is to an English speaking country, it has an ongoing personal connection, it provides a tangible way to help the least of these physically and spiritually, and it is a well-run program. It also provides a way for you to be involved in missions personally, on an ongoing basis. We have many J-Teamers that come on a regular basis—they have become family.

Something to consider: A J-Team is an excellent first missions trip experience—it is well organized, full of meaningful ministry, has a good reputation, and is designed for you to connect and minister directly with people. If you have never been on a missions trip before—sign up for one of our J-Teams this year, there is a spot for you. If you have been on a missions trip before but were disappointed—sign up for one of our J-Teams this year and be ready for the experience of a lifetime! If you have been on a J-Team before—sign up again and bring someone with you. We serve an amazing God who enlists us to serve others—we would love to help you fulfill your God-given calling to serve.

Keep lookin' up,

John

