

Sowing Seeds

I am admittedly a city boy, having grown up in the Washington D.C. suburbs. We used to drive cross country to visit my grandparents every other summer in Keswick, Iowa. Seeing all the farms along the way and all they produced was quite the experience – but it was only a snapshot of farming. I did not have a full understanding of what it took to make a living as a farmer. The closest I have even to this day is an intellectual understanding, having never experienced the process of cultivating, planting, watering, and reaping the harvest. Scripture speaks a lot through pictures and examples of everyday life, and since the Bible was written when it was, it includes many agricultural illustrations. One of its main themes is that of sowing and reaping. For most of us who live in the city, we are more focused on the reaping than we are on the sowing as that is where the results are seen and our needs are met. What we fail to notice is the hard work of sowing and the length of time between the sowing and the reaping.

For the past two years we have been praying for God to send us workers for the harvest, *for the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few* (Matthew 9:37,38) – so few, in fact, that we are still without a ground team in Jamaica. Our focus has been on the need for workers, and we have at times become discouraged and confused as to why God has not provided the workers. We have great plans that are waiting for workers to be able to implement them – for the harvest is plentiful – but we must continue to wait. What does waiting look like? Could it be that while we are waiting on God, He is waiting on us?

Ecclesiastes 11 talks of the uncertainty and unpredictability of life (v1-3). If we require all the facts before moving forward, we will never move (v4,5). Therefore, *Sow your seed in the morning, and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good* (v6). This chapter speaks to the practical nature of not putting all your eggs in one basket, because we are not sure which basket is the right one. We have been fishing in the pool of the United States for a potential ground team these past two years, but, like the disciples in John 21, we have come up empty. And what was Jesus' response? *Cast your net on the other side of the boat*. So we are casting our net in Jamaica. God has blessed us with many Jamaican friends and we have begun to explore what part, if any, God wants them to play in our ministry. So we continue to sow in the States and we have begun to sow in Jamaica, not knowing which will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good. Please continue to pray for us and with us as we seek the people God is preparing to be a part of our ground team. And pray about the possibility that you could be one of those people. We are called to do our part, no matter how things may appear, and trust God will do His part to bring forth fruit. We need to wait on God, but in our waiting, we need to be sure He is not waiting on us.



JOIN US FOR OUR FUNDRAISING DINNER



benefitting
**TEAMS
HOUSE**
and the
**HEARTBEAT
FUND**

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 13, 2018**

Doors open at 5:00 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm

\$15

First Baptist
Church Allentown
1808 N. 19th Street,
Allentown, PA 18104

Reservations required

610-398-0070

OR

WWW.T4MM.ORG



Can't attend?
You can still contribute.

Barn Raising A barn raising describes the coming together of a community for the purpose of building or rebuilding a barn for one of its members. No, building a barn is not a new TEAMS project, but the coming together of a community for the purpose of rebuilding a ministry is. God has provided us with a number of Jamaican friends who are truly ministry partners.

Mitsy, Yvette, and Avery have been working with us for the past 10 years at TEAMS House. They faithfully keep the house clean and operational as well as feed and take care of us and our house guests on each and every J-Team. After the dust settled in 2016, Miss Yvette made it clear that the ministry had to go on and that they would continue to be a part of it. These ladies bring experience, know-how, flexibility and passion to the team. Add to that their willingness and availability to help as needed, and we are blessed. Following this last J-Team we were faced with the dilemma of not having anyone to serve as caretaker of TEAMS House in between J-Teams. These ladies stepped up and have accepted the responsibility of serving as caretaker until we find someone to fill that role.



Mitsy



Yvette and Avery



Joe and Elaine Ramcharan have been working with us for the past 13 years serving in a number of roles. They provide our transportation, care for our vehicles, help us care for TEAMS House, and work with us in the clinics. During our visit this past May, they have also agreed to join our Jamaican Non-Profit board, enabling us to work more efficiently with the Jamaican government and handle paperwork and financial matters in a timely manner. They are also overseeing our Jamaican staff and the maintenance of TEAMS House and our vehicles.

Dillon Mitchell is one of the young men who grew up under Harold and Teri, coming through the Bible Club, through Youth Group, and was mentored by Harold. He officially serves as our groundskeeper, but he is so much more. His faithfulness, hard work, and the knowledge he gleaned from Harold has proven invaluable to our team.



➡ ➡ God's Direction ⬅ ⬅

The week preceding the May 2018 J-Team, our T4MM Board of Directors all gathered in Jamaica for a board retreat. It had been three years since the board had gathered in Jamaica and it was a very profitable time. As a board, we were praying that God would give us clear direction as to what our next steps should be as a Mission, and I was confident we would come out of our retreat with some concrete, specific plans. Part of the preparation and anticipation of those soon to be revealed plans was a number of meetings scheduled with Jamaican ministry connections and friends. We wanted to provide God the opportunity to make it clear what to do and with whom to do it. God made some things very clear, but what He made clear was what we were *not* to do. At first I was very discouraged, because I felt like we were once again back at square one. But the Lord brought to mind Acts 16, where it is recorded that Paul had hit a roadblock. He was on his third missionary journey and he was preaching his way through Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Antioch, Colossae, Ephesus, and he wanted to preach in Asia, but he was forbidden by the Holy Spirit. So he decided to go to Bithynia, but was forbidden by the Holy Spirit. And then he received the Macedonian call – a vision in the night of a man from Macedonia asking him to come to them and preach the gospel. We have found ourselves at the place where God has been leading us by closing doors. Instead of staying discouraged, we have chosen to accept this as part of His guiding process. We have been learning much through our searching, and we are anticipating the time when God reveals who will be a part of our new ground team.



Paul Hemmings began as one of our BTCJ instructors under Randy in 2015, and when the program needed a Director last year, accepted the position. Under his leadership, the BTCJ has continued to expand. He has been a blessing to us and to the leadership team that Randy had put in place.

Danny Farrell began assisting us this year with our building projects. He has committed to the 2018 J-Teams to serve as our Building Coordinator/Foreman. Together we determine which projects match our vision and purpose and he handles all the details of preparation for the building team as well as oversight of the building project once the team arrives. It has been such a blessing to be able to bring building teams to the island once again.



Caresia Bailey assists us with our pre-registration of the clinics. She arrives around 6:30am at each clinic site and begins the process of taking the names of people wishing to be seen by the doctor that day. Her knowledge of the people, how to spell their names, and her familiarity with patois, greatly speeds up the process and enhances the accuracy of our registration process.



This past J-Team we also had a Jamaican doctor join us for our last two clinic days. **Dr. Rose Marie Hamilton** fit in extremely well with our team and was a joy to work with. She was a tremendous help as we only had two doctors on our team. Things went so well that she has made herself available to us as needed going forward.



God has provided us with good friends in Jamaica who are choosing to come alongside us. Please continue to pray for wisdom as we continue to explore these partnerships as well as others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Hosts:

We are looking for an individual or couple to serve for a year hosting mission teams in TEAMS House.

2. Construction Foreman:

We are looking for someone to serve as our construction foreman for the 4 quarterly J-Teams in 2019.

3. Construction Project Costs:

We are looking for donations to cover the cost for our building projects for August (\$4,700) and November (\$4,700).

4. J-Team Openings:

J-Team Openings	Aug 4-12, 2018	Nov 3-11, 2018	Feb 2-10, 2019	May 4-12, 2019	Aug 3-11, 2019	Nov 2-10, 2019
3 Doctors	☑☑☑	☑☑☐	☑☐☐	☐☐☐	☐☐☐	☐☐☐
2 Nurses	☑☑	☑☑	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
Patient Screener	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐
3-4 Pharmacists	☑☑☑☐	☑☑☑☐	☑☐☐☐	☑☐☐☐	☑☐☐☐	☑☑☐☐
1-2 Clinic Clerks	☑☐	☑☑	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
3-5 Builders	☑☑☑☐☐	☑☑☑☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
2-3 Teachers	☑☑☑	☑☑☑	☑☐☐	☑☐☐	☑☐☐	☑☐☐
1-2 Encouragers	☐☐	☑☐	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

UPDATES

1. Thank you to Danny and Grace Myers of Spicy Grove for serving as the caretakers of TEAMS House this past year. They are no longer able to serve in that capacity, so we are looking for someone else to serve in that role. If you are interested in or know of anyone who might be interested in serving for a year in Jamaica hosting mission teams in TEAMS House, please contact us.
2. The Burringtons have withdrawn their application to serve as missionaries with TEAMS for Medical Missions as they believe the Lord is leading them in a different ministry direction. Please keep them in your prayers as they determine God's specific leading.



Harold's Mighty Men

One of Harold's legacies is the group of young men he mentored in St. Mary. They grew up under his tutelage through Bible Club, Youth Group, Tres Dias, on the building site, around the house, and along the way. His passing in 2016 left quite a void in their lives, and they are still struggling. I would appreciate your prayers for them and for us as we seek to begin to create some ways to fill that void. Harold planted and watered, and we want to see that fertilizing and cultivating take place in anticipation of a tremendous harvest.

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

PHONE: 610-398-0070 | EMAIL: TEAMS@T4mm.org | WEB: www.T4mm.org

Vital Signs

SPRING 2018

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS
P.O. BOX 215
MACUNGIE, PA 18062-0215

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H E A R T B E A T

by
John Heater

Partnering with God

Our God is a relational God. He created us in His image as relational, rational, volitional, emotional beings. And then He invited us to partner with Him. Judges 6,7 gives the account of Gideon's invitation to partner with God and the four things God requires: faith, obedience, the Holy Spirit, and God's grace.

Faith is required because what God calls us to is bigger than we can handle on our own. Gideon's response was, "I can't do it" because his focus was on his weaknesses vs. on the One who was calling him. The truth is, Gideon *couldn't* do it, not on his own, and that was exactly the point. God requires things greater than we can accomplish

so we will trust Him, pursue Him, submit to Him, and flourish in Him.

Obedience is required for our benefit. Like faith, if obedience were not required, we would do it our way, in our own strength, accomplishing very little, and remaining isolated from God. God's goal in obedience is to drive us into a deeper relationship with Himself which benefits us and allows us to live life to the full as it was intended.

The Holy Spirit is required because He provides the power to accomplish what God calls us to do. Listening to the Spirit, submitting to Him, and allowing Him to work in us, through us and for us is what brings the results that last for eternity. It is

also the piece that ensures God gets the glory due His name.

God's grace is required because we are fallen creatures who struggle daily with faith, obedience and submission. Thankfully we serve an incredibly gracious God who wants us to know Him as intimately as He knows us. Choose to accept His invitation to partner with Him to accomplish things you have not even imagined yet!

Keep lookin' up,

John

