

March 2019



## Heater Headlines

The Lord is doing a new thing, actually several new things. Take a look to see what He is doing in our work with TEAMS for Medical Missions. In this update, we will review some of the new things, give prayer requests and list the needs that we have.



T4MM crew celebrates this wonderful time of ministry with the February J-Team and *Helping Others Heal* workshop.

### **NURSES - NURSES - NURSES**

There is a need for 2 nurses in May, 2 nurses in August and 1 nurse in November. It is a great time for you to return if you have been on a previous J-Team. These are

great teams to join if you have been waiting to join a J-Team!!!



Celebrate with us the joy of building a new home for Nichole and her 2 sons in the Huddersfield community.

In Isaiah 43:1-21 God declares His love and care for His people and finishes with "This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise." This is what we want to do: Declare God's praise for all the marvelous and even some NEW things that He is doing.

In our quest to start building homes again, we needed help in Jamaica to make that happen. God was at work in Omar Vassell's heart and he approached us in August about wanting to help. Then in November, Omar took time off from his work to help Joe Ramcharan and the building team with building the caretaker house. After some conversation, he agreed to be our foreman for 2019. That means he is helping us identify the person in need of a home, communicating with them, forming the plan for the structure, the costs and all the materials needed. Omar went above and beyond time and time again for the February home and enlisted much help from others in this community. We are thankful for our new foreman and for the blessing it is to partner with Omar in ministry to his community.

One of the basic schools that the teachers visit each J-Team has closed leaving us with an opening in our schedule. The principal gave permission for the teaching team to come to the Boscobel Basic School in May after they lead devotions at Boscobel Primary School. This couldn't work out better since the teachers take a taxi from school to school and then to the clinic. We look forward to our special time with these

sweet preschoolers in May. There is room for another teacher in May if you want to join us!

When we asked the churches that host our clinics for a pastor or a church leader to give the devotional at the beginning of the day, the response was overwhelmingly positive. It was an excellent time for them to speak to the patients and to take part in our clinics. We continue to look for ways to make our clinics more effective in connecting the churches with their communities.

Bringing training opportunities to church and community leaders has been a desire of our hearts for a long time. When given the opportunity to host the Trauma Care Workshop at TEAMS house, we were delighted. The space we had designated was filled to capacity and all who attended expressed appreciation for the training they received and were eager for more training in the future. We look forward to partnering with our friends at Safe Place in May for an immersion trip in preparation for more workshops in Jamaica. A fund has been opened to cover the costs for these workshops. If you would like to contribute to the costs of bringing biblical counseling and training to leaders in Jamaica, please direct your gifts to the **Training Workshops** fund.

The February J-team had the privilege of blessing several new moms with supplies for their newborns. There is something so special about newborn babies. The evidence is substantial: from the team members holding babies at the clinics, to oohing and ahing over Roshawn, Avery's son, to bringing supplies to Nichole for her newborn son, Akeem, and to our friend, Fine, (pronounced "finey") who also welcomed a son. We thank God for these baby boys born in the Mango Valley. Please pray with us about the need to get the Bible Club started again for all the children in this community.

The contribution of new study Bibles for the next BTCJ classes is greatly appreciated. We also appreciate our team members who agreed to carry an extra suitcase of Bibles to get them to the Bible Training Center Jamaica office. We have 3 more suitcases to carry down in May or August! It is exciting to get these study Bibles in the hands of those who are eager to study and be trained to teach the Word of God.

New team members always lead to more people involved in Jamaica, more churches involved in short term missions and a greater base of support for the work of TEAMS for Medical Missions and all that God has called us to do. Thankful for our 4 new J-Teamers in February and to 3 more (so far) in May!!

This February J-Team included many experienced J-Teamers from 4 different states in addition to 4 first-timers. Susie Partridge and Lata Wiggins were recognized for this being their 25th J-Team!!!! The medical team saw 715 patients and gave out 2426 prescriptions. The building team built a home in Huddersfield with help from several of the young men and the community. The team enjoyed visiting the BTCJ

class on Thursday evening and their day on Saturday in Ocho Rios.

The future J-Teams are filling up and we are very thankful for each one who has filled out a registration form from the website. That really does help us know how to plan and we are always thrilled when J-Teamers return and bring their family or friends with them! Look below to see the positions that are still open for 2019 and yes, we are accepting registrations for 2020!

There just is not enough room to tell all the stories or to give a full picture of what is happening with us or TEAMS for Medical Missions in a newsletter. It is a tremendous privilege to speak to individuals and churches directly. We were grateful for the opportunities to meet with members of Chantilly Bible Church during their Missions Emphasis Week in March. John enjoyed the opportunity to preach and present the work at Crossroads Church at Montgomery in January. We look forward to having members of your church join us on a J-Team. We enjoyed our time with our friends and J-Teamers at First Baptist of Allentown at their Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Missions. Please help us schedule a time to meet with you, your small group or your church!



We were overjoyed to have 3 members of Forcey Bible Church on this J-Team.

### **Some items for prayer**

- Personnel for May, August and November J-Teams
- Wisdom in choosing building projects for May, August and November J-Teams
- Immersion trip in May for planning more training workshops
- Bible Training Center Jamaica students, teachers and classes

- Direction for a sustainable future plan for Bible Club



Ministering in Jamaica with this team was an incredible blessing.

### **J-Team Openings in 2019**

#### **May J-Team -- May 4-12**

2 Nurses    Pharmacist    Teacher    Encourager    Builder

#### **August J-Team -- August 3-11**

2 Nurses    Pharmacist    Encourager

#### **November J-Team -- November 2-10**

Nurse    Pharmacist

Thank you for taking the time to read these updates, for your prayers, financial support and participation in this ministry in many ways. Thank you for making it possible for us to return to Jamaica every 3 months and to respond to the needs with both grace and the Gospel. Your care and concern give us great encouragement.

Keep lookin' up,

John and Linda Heater

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