

## Doing Our Part

MATTHEW 14:13-21, MARK 6:29-44,  
LUKE 9:10-17 AND JOHN 6:1-13

Jesus had just received news of his cousin, John the Baptist's death, and decided to sail across the Sea of Galilee with his disciples to a secluded place to rest. But the people saw where they were headed and ran around the Sea of Galilee to meet them. When Jesus and his disciples landed on shore, Jesus saw the crowd as sheep without a shepherd and did four things: felt compassion, welcomed them, taught them, and met their physical needs. Jesus' ministry was holistic in nature and cooperative in its implementation. Why did Jesus choose to meet their physical needs instead of just teaching them? He felt compassion. How did He meet their physical needs? He did the supernatural part in conjunction with His disciples doing the natural part. How did this cooperative effort actually work? The disciples identified the need: crowd of about 12,000 people needed to eat. The disciples determined it was too big of need to meet and asked Jesus to send

the crowd away. Jesus' response: "YOU feed them". So, the disciples assessed what resources they had available: 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish – and they presented them to Jesus. John 6:6 tells us that Jesus was testing them because He already had a plan on how to meet this obvious need and that plan was a cooperative one. Jesus took the meager resources the disciples had to offer and told them to seat the crowd in groups of 50 and 100. The disciples obeyed Jesus' clear command, without being privy to the whole plan. Jesus then blessed the food, broke the bread, and began giving it and the fish to the disciples to distribute. Mark 6:41 says Jesus **kept giving** them to the disciples to set before the people. This was not a 10 second miracle, the food kept coming until all were fed – and there were leftovers. God never does anything half way. The lesson the disciples learned that day was two-fold: Jesus never asks us to do something that He does not provide what is necessary to complete the task and He never requires us to have all



we need to succeed – He requires us to step up and trust Him for all we need to succeed. Often the reason our prayers are not being answered is because God is waiting for us to do our part. This is what faith looks like. This is what God requires. This is how God provides. We do our part, He does His part, and supernatural things get done.

# Big Picture

## THE NEEDS IN JAMAICA ARE GREAT

In our interactions we have found that grace is not a concept that is easily understood, shared, or received in Jamaica. As such, the Gospel is often misunderstood, and when the Gospel is not clear, people perish. Death is too prevalent in Jamaica along with her many companions: anger, hate, selfishness, violence and shame. Life has little value to so many. Poverty is pervasive and affects Jamaica's people physically, spiritually, socially, relationally, and volitionally. For many in our community, jobs are scarce, motivation is low, and survival is the goal.

## THE RESOURCES ARE MEAGER

There is not enough money to meet all the needs – but there never will be, because while money is needed, money is not the answer. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few – so we work with who the Lord sends our way.

## OUR GOD IS A MIRACLE WORKER

We serve an amazing God who is just waiting for us to do our part before He does the heavy lifting. He has a plan to meet these overwhelming needs – our job is to follow His lead, obey, and watch Him work.

## WHERE GOD IS LEADING

**COUNSELING/ EDUCATION:** T4MM has desired for a number of years to provide counseling resources to our Jamaican friends when the time was right – and that time seems to be now. In February, we partnered with Safe Place to provide Trauma Care training (abuse, death, loss) for a small group of care providers at TEAMS House in Jamaica. We had pastors, guidance counselors, teachers, first responders, and some of our own BTC students in attendance. The positive response was overwhelming with the request for much more. As a result, we have planned an immersion trip the week following the May J-Team to meet with a cross-section of leaders and



providers from various parishes across the island to determine what topics they identify as most needed to address in future training workshops. The plan at this point is for Safe Place to travel to Jamaica 2-3 times a year to equip leaders and care givers.

**JOB CREATION:** most people in Jamaica need a hand-up in order to succeed. We are exploring the world of micro-loans as an additional way to provide long-term solutions. If this interests you, contact us and let's talk. If you have any experience in this area, we would love your input.

**MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP:** there is a large group of young men that Harold disciplined who remain strong but are looking for something more. Pray for us as we develop this area of ministry which requires creativity to administer it from afar.

**MEDICAL CARE:** the medical arm of our J-Teams continues to meet a huge need and provide inroads for the gospel and further ministry. The churches that host our clinics are using our presence to connect and reach many in their communities.

**CONSTRUCTION:** the building arm of our J-Teams has restarted and the needs to choose from are many and great. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to build again!

**BIBLE TRAINING CENTER:** the impact of this ministry is evident in Jamaica and continues to grow.

## J-Teamers doing their part

### February 2019 J-Team

- We had a full team – besides being caring, competent and professional, they were also efficient! Each day the clinic finished early even though we saw 715 patients and filled 2426 prescriptions – and the building team had so much community help that they finished by Wednesday, enabling them to add some extra touches to the new home.
- Our Advance Team was able to visit some of our shut-in patients and provide some extra care for them.
- Our doctors had opportunities to provide extra care for some in our neighborhood after our clinics. Going into the neighborhood and seeing the depth of poverty was an eye-opening experience.
- We had 4 first-time J-Teamers, we had 3 from the same church, 4 from another church, and 4 family groupings.
- We celebrated the building of our 1st home in 3 years!
- We celebrated Lata Wiggins and Susie Partridge – this was the 25th J-Team for both of them!



### Generous Gift of Life

One of our long-time patients was diagnosed with the need for a pacemaker 10 years ago, but due to the expense, had remained unable to get one. A J-Teamer was touched by her need and her story and felt led to donate the money to purchase her pacemaker and cover the hospital costs to implant it. With the payments made, she now just waits for a date for the procedure. She is so thankful and praising the Lord! Thank you to that faithful J-Teamer who chose to listen to the Lord's prompting and give above and beyond to meet a need.

# Jamaican Partners doing their part

## Omar Vassell

- Luke 10:1-12 talks about identifying the man of peace in the community where you are seeking to minister and work through them. Omar is the man of peace in Huddersfield, the community of TEAMS House. He has his finger on the pulse of our neighborhood and he makes sacrifices for the neighborhood.
- He is a leader of men – Omar recruited the neighborhood to help build Nichole’s house; we had 12 men on the worksite and a local politician chipped in money to help with the project.
- Omar has a ministry heart – he deftly navigated some unique relational challenges on the building site while helping those involved to maintain their personal dignity. He gently, gradually introduced me to the neighborhood and the depth of its need – real needs became felt needs for me with plans to meet those needs.
- He was frugal and creative – our work project was bigger than usual and still came in under budget. I praise the Lord for Omar, for he is committed to loving his neighbors and to helping us minister to his neighborhood.

## Jamaican TEAMS Staff

- Our Jamaican staff have picked up the mantle and are ministering in ways we cannot. They have embraced the ministry aspect of what we do and they have enhanced it.
- We added more responsibility to them in February by hosting a Trauma Care Workshop immediately following the J-Team. Not only did they not complain, they were excited to see TEAMS House being used for additional ministry! They worked long hours tirelessly with tremendous attitudes and flexibility.
- Our staff has provided us with the ability to expand our ministry in Jamaica.



## Band of Brothers

- The group of young men whom Harold disciplined have started coming around again and participating in the ministry, as individuals and as a group. We had six of them join us on the building team (Romarlo is taking the picture above) putting into practice what Harold had taught them.
- This group looks out for one another and remains loyal to one another. The potential for impact is exponential.
- They are looking for more and want to grow in their relationship with God and in serving Him.
- They are becoming more of a fixture around TEAMS House again. While it adds to the food budget, it is well worth it!

## Patrick Marshall

- Patrick is one of our church leaders and has been a faithful friend and ministry partner for 14 years. He was an integral part of the team that worked with Harold to provide food for the poorest of the poor in our neighborhood. With the passing of Harold, this ministry stopped. Now three years later, Patrick, using TEAMS truck, will be restarting the food distribution ministry in our neighborhood.
- Patrick, with the help of Omar Vassell and Michael Laing, is also picking up the mantle of vetting potential house recipients of our J-Team builders. This has been one of the main obstacles to restarting the building ministry.

## DOING YOUR PART

### Prayer Opportunities

- We still need full-time workers in Jamaica – the harvest is plentiful, the workers are few – pray for workers
- Expanding ministry to meet the massive needs in the community: counseling/education, job creation, men’s discipleship, plus ongoing ministries of medical care, construction, and training of church pastors and leaders

### Giving Opportunities

- Ministry costs money and the expansion of ministry costs more money. Thank you for your faithful financial partnership over the years – please tell others about us and recruit them onto the team.

- We have also created a new fund for Training Workshops. If you are interested in biblically counseling and equipping nationals to better serve their neighbors, consider giving to this fund.

- The Heartbeat fund, TEAMS House fund, Medicine fund, Construction fund, and Bible Training Center fund still need funding as well.

### Going Opportunities

- We still need full-time workers in Jamaica – John and Linda Heater were commissioned to be the directors of T4MM five years ago. With the loss of our ground team three years ago, they have also had to cover the responsibilities of missionaries on the ground in Jamaica. While this is rewarding and even healthy for the development of the Heaters’ understanding of life and ministry in Jamaica, it is far from ideal for the overall ministry. Ministry expansion is necessary, but difficult. Please pray for full-time workers that we could entrust with the ministry on the ground.

- We have an ongoing need for J-Teamers every three months, every year – consider joining a team again, or for the first time.

# J-Team Openings

	May 4-12, 2019	Aug 3-11, 2019	Nov 2-10, 2019	Feb 1-9, 2020
3 Doctors	☑☑☑	☑☑☑	☑☑☑	☑☑☐
2 Nurses	☐☐	☐☐	☑☐	☑☑
Patient Screener	☑	☑	☑	☑
3-4 Pharmacists	☑☑☑☐	☑☑☑☐	☑☑☑☐	☑☑☑☐
1-2 Clinic Clerks	☑☐	☑☑	☑☑	☑☐
3-5 Builders	☑☑☐☐☐	☑☑☑☑☐	☑☑☑☑☑	☑☐☐☐☐
2-3 Teachers	☑☑☐	☑☑☑	☑☑☐	☑☐☐
1-2 Encouragers	☐☐	☐☐	☑☐	☐☐

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

# TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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## Vital Signs

MARCH 2019



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# HEARTBEAT

by  
John Heater



## Just Say Yes

I love the hymn, *Be Still My Soul* -

Be still my soul, thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake,  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

What keeps you from doing your part? From doing what God has designed, equipped, and called you to do? Are you waiting on God to make the first move? Are you fearful of making a mistake, of failing? Are you fearful of the cost? Do you know the part you are to play?

Whatever is keeping you from doing your part, you must overcome it. Your whole purpose for being on the earth is to glorify God and serve others as He has designed you to do. If you are not doing your part, you are missing the whole point of being alive.

John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came to give us life and to give it to us abundantly. True life comes from serving Him, and serving Him mainly involves doing your part for the kingdom. What He has called you to do, He has equipped you to do.

God has invited us to be active participants in His plan to save and run the world. Scripture tells us that we will have jobs to do for eternity - ruling cities, overseeing ministry, using our gifts for the benefit of others. Scripture also tells us that what we do here in this life, greatly impacts what we will be doing for eternity. My encouragement to you is to get a jump on eternity and get busy doing your part for the kingdom now.

Keep lookin' up,

*John*