

# Feeding Jesus

## Matthew 25:34-40

Sharing the gospel clearly is required if people are going to understand and accept the good news of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:13,14 tells us that unless the gospel is heard, a person cannot believe and be saved, making *speaking* the gospel paramount. But is speaking all that is required of us – or are we called to actually *do* the gospel? 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 calls us ambassadors for Christ – we represent Him to those around us. In order to represent Christ well, we need to think like Jesus thinks, act like Jesus acts, do what Jesus does.

So what is the good news of Jesus Christ? 1 Timothy 1:15 tells us *that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*. He came to redeem us and restore us. Colossians 1:13,14 and Hebrews 9:12 speak to our redemption and forgiveness of sins. Redeemed – bought back by the blood of Jesus Christ. Forgiven – the penalty of our sins removed from us, and the restoration of a renewed relationship with God provided. Restoration – such a big word, encompassing every aspect of our lives. Luke 4:18,19 tell us that the gospel is about the restoration of our body, soul, and spirit. In John 10:10 Jesus tells us He came that we might have life and that we might live it abundantly. Romans 8:18-22 tells us creation itself is groaning, waiting for its own restoration. The gospel is not just about our final destination, it is about the restoration of all things back to their original design. Jesus is about holistic ministry and calls us to be about holistic ministry.

Jamaica, like the rest of us, is desperately in need of the Savior. They are also desperately in need of the Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Healer, Counselor, Son of God, Provider – they need Jesus. Scripture tells us that healing the sick, feeding the hungry, meeting physical/emotional/spiritual needs were all part of Jesus' ministry. He not only provided the way back to God, but He also gave them a taste of what restoration will be like. It is true that Jesus did not heal everyone He came in contact with, or wipe out poverty, or feed all who were hungry, or make all things right – but one day all things will be made right, just not yet. In the meantime, we too are to provide a taste of what restoration will be like.

God's heart is for people. His desire is for their complete restoration. Matthew 25:34-40 gives us a glimpse into the heart of God. Jesus is speaking of the end times when He separates those who have put their trust in Him from those who have not. One of the characteristics of those who have put their trust in Him is that they cared for His people – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing those without shelter, visiting the sick or incarcerated. And Jesus said that when these things were done to them, it was the same as doing it to Him. James 2:15-17 says if you see someone in need of clothing and food and say, "Be warmed and filled" and yet do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Faith without works is dead – useless.



God has called each of us to holistic ministry. For us it looks like providing free quarterly medical clinics in St. Mary, Jamaica where we serve as the family doctor for about 1,000 people. It looks like building homes for those in critical need of shelter. It looks like training men and women how to study the Word of God and disciple and train others. It looks like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the shut-in – all the while speaking the good news of Jesus Christ clearly and begging them on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. And when I say us, I mean you, because we could not do any of this ministry without volunteers, prayer warriors, and financial backers. If you are not part of this ministry, while you continue to minister where you are, consider joining us in Jamaica on a J-Team – we would love to share our ministry with you in person. It is a blast to serve Jesus and to exercise useful faith! Come join us in feeding Jesus, clothing Jesus, housing Jesus, visiting Jesus.

# UPDATES

**Monica Nugent** – Monica has received her pacemaker, is doing well and is having follow-up visits to fine-tune the device.

**Band of Brothers** – One of our supporters read about the young men in whom Harold poured much of his time becoming a fixture once again around TEAMS House and sent a monetary gift to be used to do something nice for them. In honor of Harold, we treated them to pizza and a movie at the theater. The past few months John has been discipling them via skype.

**Safe Place Ministries** – has been partnering with us to bring training workshops to leaders in St. Mary. The February workshop was a huge success with the participants asking for more. In May we hosted an immersion trip to gain more insight into topics and needs to address. October will bring another workshop to train leaders in the area of Children in Crisis as well as training local firemen in how to perform Critical Incident Stress Debriefs. We are so thankful to have Safe Place Ministries as part of our team.

**Bible Training Center of Jamaica (BTCJ)** – We will have two classes graduating in October!

# May J-Team Report

Our May J-Team was made up of 14 people plus our Jamaican staff. While all our team slots were not full, our team was flexible with some filling multiple roles and some filling unfamiliar roles. We also had some local partners come alongside to help. As with every team, God supplies exactly what we need and who we need. Having said that, it is always nice to have a full team and our past couple of May J-Teams have been smaller teams. If you are available May 2-10, 2020, consider joining us – we have lots of openings.



### 3 New J-Teamers

We had three first-time team members on this team, all of whom fit in beautifully! Stephanie Eckert, an OB/GYN, served as one of our providers. She quickly acclimated to the clinic setting and the patients loved her. She also joined John for a home visit with an elderly woman, adding to her experience, and blessing this dear woman who is homebound.

Brian and Debbi Harley were our other two first-timers, serving as teacher and builder. Their original plan was to serve on a J-Team every other year, but as the week was coming to a close, they decided to join us every year, as well as try to get their siblings to join them on a team.

### Veteran J-Teamers taking on more responsibility

Joyce Grubb served as our head pharmacist on this team, a position usually reserved for our very own Anne Clay. This enabled Anne to fill a different needed role as well as serve more freely in her Medical Coordinator role over the clinics. This was Joyce's 15th J-Team, and she was a natural – the pharmacy did not miss a beat. Serving with her were two of our veteran pharmacists, Sue Carey and Rachael Tormasi. Thank you, Joyce!



### House for Doritt Whyte

We were able to build our second house of 2019 and this was for Doritt Whyte and her children. She was new to the neighborhood, alone, and in need of housing. The community rallied behind her and together we were able to provide her with a place of shelter that we hope will soon feel like home. We dedicated her house the Friday of our J-Team which was one of the highlights of the week.

### Was a joy having Jane Leeser join us

We love having all our J-Teamers join us in Jamaica, but it is always a treat to have one of our office staff join us on the field. Jane knew we needed a clinic clerk for this team and she volunteered to serve. John had the privilege of serving side by side with her all week in the clinics, and the patients were served well. Thank you, Jane!



# PRAYER REQUESTS



**1. BTCJ:** Please continue to pray for additional instructors as well as additional graduates who will come alongside present students in a mentoring/discipleship role. This is a key element to the ongoing success of the program.

**2. November House Recipient(s):** Kerriann with 6 children – oldest has Lupus (waiting on needed permission to build); and Claudine (has a physical handicap and will soon be homeless).

**3. Band of Brothers:** Please continue to pray for John's developing relationship with these young men. Ultimately we would like to find someone that could disciple/mentor them on an ongoing basis in person.

# August J-Team Report



Our August J-Team was full of firsts: we had 24 on a J-Team (plus our Jamaican staff), 13 first time J-Teamers, 2 pharmacy students fulfilling rotation requirements, and a local Jamaican shadowing us to learn more about our ministry. It was an amazing time of ministry! Our team ranged from ages 16 to 81 and worked beautifully together.

## Families serving together

We had five sets of family units on this trip! One made up of dad, mom, son, and daughter; a second made up of mom, 2 daughters, and granddaughter; a third made up of aunt and nephew; and two couples. It is such a joy to see families serving together, knowing the impact it can have not only on their individual families but on their church families when they return. The added dynamic to the overall J-Team is such a blessing and adds a welcome dimension to the whole J-Team.



## Pharmacy Students

Over the past year and a half, Anne Clay, our Medical Coordinator, working in conjunction with High Point University in North Carolina, has been developing a Missions focused rotation for fourth year pharmacy students. We welcomed our first two students on this J-Team and it was a huge success! They were able to not only see how their training could be used on the Mission Field, but also grew in their ability to interact with patients and share the love of Christ with them in the process. The feedback from the students and the school has been extremely positive and we are looking forward to hosting two more students on our November J-Team.



## House for Rudolph and Jennifer

Originally we were planning on building a home for Kerriann and her children, but the necessary paperwork giving her permission to build did not come through, causing us to move Rudolph and Jennifer up the list. The house this older couple was living in was falling apart and unable to even keep out the rain, so the timing for them could not have been better. Please pray for Kerriann that she will be able to get her paperwork together in time for our November J-Team so we can build a home for her and her children.

## J-Team Openings:

	Nov 2-10, 2019	Feb 1-9, 2020	May 2-10, 2020	Aug 1-9, 2020	Nov 7-15, 2020
3 Doctors		☑☑☑	☐☐☐	☐☐☐	☐☐
2 Nurses		☑☑	☑☑	☐☐	☐☐
Patient Screener		☑	☐	☐	☐
3-4 Pharmacists	<b>FULL TEAM 23 J-Teamers</b>	☑☑☑☑	☑☐☐☐	☑☐☐☐	☑☐☐☐
1-2 Clinic Clerks		☑	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
3-5 Builders		☑☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐
2-3 Teachers		☑☑☐	☑☐☐	☑☐☐	☑☐
1-2 Encouragers		☑☐	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

# IN Focus



Joe and Elaine Ramcharan have been associated with TEAMS for Medical Missions for over 15 years. They were best of friends with the Nichols, our first field missionaries, when Harold and Teri first came to Jamaica. They have proven to be an invaluable asset, providing us with cultural understanding, operational wisdom, practical assistance, and friendship. This past year we invited them to join our Jamaican board made up of John Heater, Neville Tomlinson, and the Ramcharans. This board enables us as a mission to fulfill all the requirements of being a non-profit in Jamaica. They answer to our Stateside Board providing information, perspective, insights, and suggestions regarding operating in Jamaica. Since May of 2017, we have not had any full-time field missionary staff, and the Ramcharans have stepped in to handle governmental matters as they



pertain to the ministry – things like vehicle licensing and insurance, taxes, and other regulations that require timely responses. For the past 15 plus years, they have been providing our teams with transportation to and from the airport and clinics.

Joe provides us with all our vehicle needs from purchases, maintenance, conversion and even selling some of our used vehicles. He provides oversight for all things TEAMS House and property related when the Heaters are not on the island. As board members they provide our Jamaican staff with all they need and are instrumental in prepping for each J-Team before they arrive on the island. When necessary, Joe will personally get involved in the construction aspect of the ministry, enabling us to relax knowing it is in good hands.

Elaine transports us every day and serves with us at each clinic. We affectionately refer to her as our Crossing Guard as her role is to make sure all the patients are getting to where they are supposed to be with all their documentation. She also serves as interpreter for those patients with thick patois in the event our J-Teamers just can't quite get the gist of their concerns.



We are so thankful for this couple. Their friendship is treasured, we are deeply indebted to them for their service, and they help make our job of serving in Jamaica an extremely enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Thank you, Joe and Elaine!

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

# TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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

## Vital Signs

SEPTEMBER 2019



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# H E A R T B E A T

by  
*John Heater*

One of the benefits of being on the Island for nearly a month every quarter is that we are able to develop meaningful relationships with so many of our Jamaican friends. Some are in positions of influence, some have skillsets and resources helpful to the ministry, and some have little more to offer than relationship and friendship. I want to write a little bit about two of my friends that fall into this last category.

Stanley comes to our Wednesday clinic in Boscobel and lives along Gully Road. He has a humble one-room house with no floor on a steep, rocky hill, whose walls have gaps near the rotting roof, no windows, and no real bed to speak of. He keeps his chickens in his house because he cannot afford a coop. He lives on government subsidy that amounts to about \$35 a month, and

the charity of neighbors. My routine is to drive Stanley home after clinic, make sure he has food to eat, which he often does not, and spend some time talking together, even though his patois is so thick I find it difficult to understand. But Stanley is one of my friends and one of the reasons I go to Jamaica.

Hiac lives in Huddersfield up the hill from TEAMS House caring for his 40-year-old son in a humble one-room house. His son is severely disabled and catatonic — has been for the past 20 years. Did I mention that Hiac is also disabled and yet somehow manages to care for his son? As far as I know, he has no income and lives off the land and the charity of neighbors. Both of these men were loved and cared for by Harold and Randy — and now they are loved and cared for by me. To

be honest, I am not sure how they survive — they are better men than I.

Why do I share this with you? To show how caring I am? To garner sympathy for the people of Jamaica? No. I mention this because these two friends of mine are loved by Jesus, and He has put them in my sphere of influence and care. And Jesus has said, when you do it to the least of these my brethren, you do it unto Me. I do not know for sure where Stanley or Hiac stand with the Savior, but my prayer is that they will see Jesus in me as they hear about Jesus from me.

Keep lookin' up,

*John*

