



## Celebrating 15 Years

My heart's desire as a four-year-old child was to be a missionary. That dream became a reality 15 years ago when I began my journey as a missionary pharmacist with TEAMS. I met Ray and Ruth Shive on a flight to Jamaica in May 2005 as I was traveling to participate on a missions trip in Montego Bay with a NC church. God brought the Shives and I together at the perfect time. They had been praying that God would provide someone to coordinate the medical side of the mission for 3 years, and I had been seeking a fulltime missionary assignment for 6 months. Things would proceed rapidly after our initial encounter. The TEAMS board approved me as missionary in July 2004. I was commissioned by my sending church, First Baptist Church in Creedmoor, on September 29, 2004. Since my first J-Team in November 2004, I have served on 60 consecutive trips as the medical coordinator.



The beginning with the Shives

It is hard to believe 15 years of ministry have passed by so very quickly. I have experienced tremendous joy in serving God in Jamaica along with great sorrow. Yet, through the trials I count it all joy that my faith has been strengthened. God's blessing is on our medical clinics as we provide care for so many Jamaicans of all ages. I have been building relationships little by little with the people we serve trip after trip. It is a privilege to know so many of them by name and to care for them so deeply. I consider the patients to be my friends and family. Caring for physical needs is so important because once basic medical needs are met, then people are more open to spiritual matters. People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. Showing compassion demonstrates God's love in a very tangible way.

I am so blessed to combine my love of pharmacy and missions. When I worked for the federal government, I could not share my personal beliefs. Now as a missionary, I can boldly share my faith at our clinics. I am so thankful God can use an everyday pharmacist in an extraordinary way. Also, I am so thankful for the army of people who partner with this ministry through love, financial support and prayers. I look forward to the coming years of ministry. I believe God will continue to do great things in Jamaica. To God be the glory!



Jane Leaser and I



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***Jamaica***  
***Because God Is at work***



**Mentoring pharmacy students**

## **Investing in the future**

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The work in Jamaica requires so many volunteers. I learned on my first J-Team that I was going to need lots and lots of help if the ministry was going to be successful. I have been blessed to serve with so many people in the pharmacy over the past 15 years having gleaned from their knowledge and experience. Because of their contributions the operation of the pharmacy has become smoother and more efficient. Missions requires learning and a willingness to try new things.

As a missionary, my goal is to duplicate myself. On J-Teams I have worked to equip pharmacists to come along and assist with the ministry. It is a joy to see other pharmacists at work at the clinics knowing they can handle things when I am not available. It was been good for me to be available to serve in other areas of the clinic because of they have things under control.

In August, I had the privilege of being a preceptor for two pharmacy school students from High Point University in NC in their final year of school. The two ladies helped to transport the medicines to Jamaica and through customs, counted medicines on the advance team, participated on the J-Team as pharmacists and then helped to organize the medicine room after the J-Team. I had two well seasoned pharmacist friends help me with the teaching and mentoring role. The experience the students gained in educating patients about their medicines was invaluable. They gained confidence interacting with patients. The highlight for me was showing them how a love for pharmacy and missions can be combined.

I will be a preceptor on the November J-Team for two more students from High Point. The pharmacy school has asked me to continue to be a preceptor next year. Four students in 2020 are planning to serve in Jamaica. I am so thankful for the university's partnership. I pray God will allow me many more opportunities to equip the next generation of pharmacists. Who knows, I might eventually work myself out of a job, which is also a missionary goal.