

Vital Signs

2019 – Year in Review

Teamwork

When I reflect on the fact that we only have three full-time employees (missionaries) and three part-time office personnel and a volunteer board of directors, it astounds me to see what God is accomplishing through this ministry. How is it that we are able to impact churches both in Jamaica and here in the States? How is it that we are able to share the gospel and bring the Word of God to bear on the needs of so many? How is it that we are able to serve as the family doctor for about 1000 people in the Parish of St. Mary, Jamaica? How is it that we are able to provide food and shelter for those in great need? How is it that we are able to train pastors and church leaders and help prepare them for ministry? The answer is two-fold: we serve an amazing God and we have **YOU** on our team! Many of you serve as prayer partners with us – prayer is that mysterious thing that God has ordained to use to bring about change; without it, our ministry would be ineffective at best. Many of you serve as financial partners with us – money is that not so mysterious thing that is required to fund ministry as well as something God uses as a faith-building tool; without it, our ministry would be impossible. Many of you choose to volunteer your time and talents (as well as pay your own way) to serve on J-Teams to Jamaica or on our Medi-Pack team. Without you, this ministry would not exist, and its impact would

not be felt. Good for you! Thank you for being such a vital part of the team and for serving the Lord so faithfully in this manner! It is such a joy to serve with you on this team – but we are not finished yet. We still have room for many more to join this team in all capacities: prayer, finances, presence and time. Included in this Vital Signs is a letter outlining our financial need to finish the year well and be able to enter 2020 on good footing in hopes of expanding our ministry impact. We are focusing on our heartbeat fund because it is consistently well below budget. One-time gifts are more than welcomed and greatly appreciated, but we are especially seeking monthly financial partners for this fund.

We also invite you to join us on a J-Team, either for the first time, or once again, and there is always room for more prayer partners – please consider investing in the Team.

TEAMS for Medical Missions is about

Healing the Body (meeting physical needs opens doors to meet spiritual needs)

Making Disciples (introducing people to who Jesus truly is and teaching and modeling what it means to be a Christ follower)

Strengthening the Local Church (equipping Jamaican churches for effective ministry at home and beyond)

Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.





2019 HIGHLIGHT REEL



NOVEMBER J-TEAM

We had 23 of us on this team plus our Jamaican staff and the team bonded and gelled very well. We had 8 first timers who fit right in, including 2 pharmacy students. We were able to serve 638 patients and hand out 2378 prescriptions as well as build a house for a dear sister, Claudine. On Tuesday night the men met with our Jamaican young men and we shared how God was working in each of our lives. These young men also spent the week with our men on the building site – it is a joy to see our J-Teamers directly impacting our young Jamaican men!

Our building team built a home for Claudine Hines in Days Mountain who was being evicted from her home in Galina after living there for 20 years, due to no fault of her own. She was a fixture on the building site, helping where she could even though she only has one arm. She was so grateful and overcome with emotion that the Lord would provide for her a home of her own. Please continue to pray for Claudine as she adjusts to living in a new community and seeks to be a light there for her Lord.

ROSHAWN'S BABY DEDICATION

Avery, one of our long-time Jamaican staffers, wanted to have her baby, Roshawn, dedicated to the Lord while our team was on the island. Quite a few from the neighborhood joined our team as Paul Hemmings officiated. It was a wonderful service and we felt extremely blessed to be included. This little one has many aunts and

uncles from the States thinking of and praying for him and with plans on checking in on him in person.



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY PHARMACY STUDENTS

This year saw the culmination of a plan in the making for quite some time as Anne Clay developed a clinic rotation in conjunction with High Point University for 5th year pharmacy students. In both August and November we had two students participate on the J-Teams, shadowing Anne and learning what it means to be a missionary pharmacist. The program is proving to be a huge success in both exposing these students to another avenue for their degree as well as developing their interpersonal skills with patients. We have 4 more students lined up for 2020.

BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS

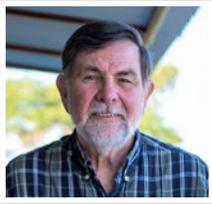
Gate Ministry – Providing for critical needs such as food, clothing, etc. requires compassion, discernment, and hearing from the Holy Spirit. Jesus' words to the disciples, *the poor you shall always have with you*, is a stark reminder that while meeting physical needs is neither the most important goal, nor possible to completely meet, it is part of our calling as believers. Meeting physical needs opens doors to meeting spiritual needs and it gives them a little taste of heaven when all things will be made right. It has been a pleasure restarting this part of the ministry in our community.

Construction Ministry – We are so excited to have been able to restart our house building ministry this year. We were able to build 4 houses, one each J-Team, and are already lining up recipients for 2020. This ministry enables non-medical men another way to participate on a J-Team and impact our Jamaican young men who work alongside them.



J-TEAMS

We have enjoyed the resurgence of full teams this year! Full teams translate into more time with individuals we are serving both in the clinics and on the building site. It also allows our missionaries to focus more on people and other ministry needs vs. filling a missing role on a J-Team. One of the greatest joys is serving alongside returning J-Team veterans. Many of these folks have sensed a calling to serve Jamaica in this way and have become a huge asset to us and the ministry. Over the years we have had 112 people who have served on more than one J-Team, over 40 of whom have participated on more than 5 J-Teams: 4 of whom have served on more than 10 J-Teams, another 3 on more than 15 J-Teams, and another 2 on more than 25 J-Teams. The experience, love and commitment that these bring is invaluable. One of the things that keeps bringing people back is the opportunity to minister in the same neighborhood, to the same people, and to be able to build on their relationships with their Jamaican friends. One of my favorite conversations on this past J-Team was with one of our most recent veterans who was telling me about a nurse friend who might join us on a J-Team. I just smiled as I told him I liked that he said *join us* and not *join you*. He smiled and said, "I guess I did, didn't I?" Along with returning J-Team veterans, we also had 27 first-timers this year – many of whom we hope will become returning veterans!



BIBLICAL TRAINING

Encouragers – The encouragers on our J-Teams have the privilege of coming alongside the patients in our clinics to listen to their stories, pray for them, and bring the Word of God to bear on their situations. The opportunities for sharing the gospel and encouraging encounters with the Living God are constant and the cumulative impact after many J-Teams is evident on our dear Jamaican friends.

Band of Brothers – I have referred to these young men of Jamaica in a couple of different ways: Harold’s Mighty Men and now Band of Brothers. These young men were nurtured and disciplined by Harold and now it is our responsibility and privilege. It is exciting to see how God is at work in their lives and their openness to being disciplined. At our last meeting we had 6 young men in attendance, most of whom had been working all week with our J-Team men.



Training Workshops – We had the privilege of partnering with Safe Place, the ministry that provides our member care, earlier in the year to provide training in Trauma Care to our Jamaican friends. The participants included pastors, teachers, guidance counselors, fire brigade and police. The training was biblical, practical, and well received. Pray for us as we seek to provide more training in the future.

Bible Training Center of Jamaica – We had the joy of attending the graduation of BTC



classes 4 and 5 before the J-Team arrived this past October. An added blessing was having Sara and Kali Hentzel join us for a BTC 1-3 reunion and the graduation. The BTCJ now has 57 graduates with about 50 others still taking classes. Please keep these students, instructors, and graduates in your prayers as ministry in Jamaica is difficult with much opposition from the evil one.

JAMAICAN MINISTRY PARTNERS

Church Volunteer Dinner – Sunday evening, after our J-Team flew home, we hosted a dinner at TEAMS House for the church leaders and clinic volunteers of our four church clinic locations. Including our own personnel, we had 34 for dinner and had the opportunity to thank them for their participation in the ministry with us. Without their facilities and assistance, we would not be able to do what we do. It also gave us the opportunity to discuss the effectiveness of our ministry and ideas for broadening our impact. We believe this is the first of many such gatherings to come.

Clinic Volunteer Staff – We are privileged to have three ladies who have committed to serving at all 4 clinic locations each J-Team with us. **Caresia Bailey** arrives before any of us



to pre-register patients so that we can start the clinics in a timely manner and with minimal chaos. **Maxia Dalrumple-Simpson** serves as our patient caller and gate keeper instilling confidence in our patients that all is under control and running smoothly. And **Linda Robinson** serves as an encourager and in the kids corner each clinic. It is a joy to work side by side with these ladies.



PRAYER REQUESTS



- 1. Continued full J-Teams for 2020**
- 2. Provision of additional missionaries on our team in 2020**
- 3. Reach our fundraising goal of \$25,000**
- 4. Expansion of our pool of monthly financial partners in 2020**

J-Team Openings:

	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	☑☑☑☑	☑☐☐☐	☑☐☐☐	☑☐☐
1-2 Clinic Clerks	☑	☑☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
3-5 Builders	☑☑☑☑☑	☑☑☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☑☐☐
2-3 Teachers	☑☐	☑☐☐	☑☐☐	☐☐
1-2 Encouragers	☑☐	☑☐	☐☐	☐☐

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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

Vital Signs

DECEMBER 2019

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

P.O. BOX 215

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H E A R T B E A T

by
John Heater

1 Corinthians 16:17-18 - *I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus; because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.*

Paul's ministry was difficult yet rewarding; lonely at times yet fulfilling; painful yet worth it. All of this continually drove him to his Lord, the great Comforter, Provider, Healer, Savior. But God also provided companions to come alongside Paul in ministry and personally. Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus were a few. These men refreshed Paul's spirit and he wanted to acknowledge them.

I want to acknowledge a couple who are on our team and who refresh me. There are many others who could also fit into this category, but today I want to focus on Steve and Susie Partridge. Steve and Susie have become a permanent fixture with T4MM with Susie having completed her 27th J-Team! While Steve has *only* been on 5 J-Teams,

he is always present even in his absence. Whenever Susie comes to Jamaica without Steve, Steve sends a note of encouragement to the team in preparation for their week of ministry. Because of Susie's experience on J-Teams, I often lean on her wisdom, input and advice. When Susie is in the house, there is a quiet confidence that it is going to be a smooth week, no matter what comes our way. Susie is confident, calm, quick to trade jabs with me throughout the week — which is extremely refreshing! Her walk with the Lord is evident and spills over into all her relationships.

Steve has served many years in church ministry leadership, and his ministry heart has become fine-tuned and with it he encourages me, challenges

me, and strengthens me. When he is on a J-Team, he makes it clear he is there to serve in whatever capacity I need him — and he does it well. His sincere encouragement to me, His commitment to the ministry, His love for Jamaica's people, and His ear for hearing God's voice refreshes me.

I leave you with two encouragements: take the time to acknowledge someone in your life who refreshes you, and secondly, take the time to refresh someone else.

Keep lookin' up,

John

