

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

I enjoy change a lot, as long as I am in charge of what gets changed, how it is changed, and when the change is to take place. But I like it less when my carefully laid plans become obsolete due to outside circumstances beyond my control. COVID-19 has proven to be one of those circumstances, causing us to change our short-term plans to accommodate this until it passes. While we wait for things to return to normal, we are exploring ways to still meet needs in Jamaica in the midst of this pandemic. It makes me think of the time Paul and his team were forced to make an adjustment.

Acts 16:6-10 – *they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia*

and help us.” And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Making adjustments is a part of life because life is always changing. We are called to minister to people in whatever circumstance we find ourselves or them. We can either choose to be frustrated, or we can choose to embrace what is new and find a way to continue to minister to those God has called us. In the midst of this pandemic, we need to not lose our focus on ministering to people – instead, let’s look for new and specific ways to minister in this season of ministry, listening for God’s voice and moving in the direction He gives.

How is Jamaica adjusting?

Overall, the country is doing well regarding the effects of COVID-19. Percentagewise their cases are low and their COVID deaths are below 20 people. Their biggest concern regarding COVID is coming from abroad. Returning residents, tourists, and business travel are attributing to

*“The best laid schemes of mice and men,
gang aft agley An lea’e us nought but grief
and pain, for promis’d joy”*

from *To a Mouse* by Robert Burns

any spikes that Jamaica sees. The protocols that have been put in place involve differing levels of quarantine and travel restrictions along with the universal hand washing, mask wearing, and social distancing. Due to the fear of more COVID cases being imported, the Jamaican Ministry of Health has canceled all medical teams for the rest of 2020. As a ministry we serve as the family doctor for about 1,000 people in St. Mary, and many of these dear friends are struggling right now. Without the funds to purchase their needed medicine and without the access to the free medication this ministry provides, they are having to do without. One of our friends in the community has had a lymphatic cyst that has been growing to the point that it is filling a good portion of his mouth. In February he had finished all the preliminary procedures necessary before his surgery could be scheduled – and then COVID hit, postponing all elective surgeries. Our Bible Training Center had to shut down for a short while but were soon able to resume meeting. Two of the classes are scheduled to graduate in February with new classes to start

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T4MM Fundraiser Telethon

**Save the Date:
Saturday,
October 17**

We are going to be livestreaming this year's Fundraiser Event — so you can participate in it no matter where you are! We will be celebrating 20 years in St. Mary, Jamaica all evening, hearing from friends and ministry partners in Jamaica, J-Teamers past and present, and our new Missionary family, the Kauffmans. We will be remembering, as well as looking forward to what God is going to be doing in Jamaica in the years to come.

Bethel BFC of Emmaus, PA will be hosting this event for us on **Saturday, October 17**. For those attending in person, the doors will open at 6:15pm. At 6:30pm we will be serving Dessert and Coffee (100% Jamaican Chocolate, other desserts, and Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee). For everyone else online, tune in from 7-8:30pm when we will be Livestreaming our first ever T4MM Fundraiser Telethon!

Our goal is to have Watch Parties extending across the United States. The more the better. If you would like to host a Watch Party, please contact us so we can get you set up. If you would like to be your very own Watch Party, that works too, it's just not as much fun. Either way, contact us so we can get you the link so you can participate in our very first T4MM Fundraiser Telethon!

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in Port Maria, Annotto Bay, and hopefully Highgate. We are excited that a number of potential instructors will be coming out of these graduating classes. Many in the community work hourly jobs and have either had their hours cut or have been laid off. Without the luxury of savings or nest eggs, life just became a whole lot more difficult. But the overall reaction we get from folks when we ask them how they are doing is that this too shall pass, and God is good. They are also quick to say thank you for all the help you provide. Please keep our Jamaican friends and neighbors in your prayers.

Making our own adjustments

Having to cancel three out of four J-Teams for the year has thrown a bit of a wrench into our carefully laid plans for 2020 causing us to focus more on other parts of the ministry. The needs in Jamaica have not changed. In some cases, needs have increased and continue to increase the longer this pandemic lingers. While medical teams are not permitted at this time, we thought perhaps other kinds of teams could still travel and minister. But we needed to do some research, so Mike and John took a recon trip July 20 – August 13 to personally experience Jamaica's COVID-19 protocols and explore ministry possibilities during this pandemic. The purpose of this was fourfold: to discover if it was possible to still bring a team of some sort to Jamaica before the end of the year; to minister directly to our Jamaican friends and community; to introduce Mike to our ministry partners; and begin to develop a ministry plan for the Kauffmans in Jamaica.



1. With the present protocols in place, we have decided it is impractical to bring a team to the island. A 14-day homebound quarantine is required and things on the island do not seem to be loosening up anytime soon. Even in as nice a place as TEAMS House is, it still feels like house arrest. And it is difficult to minister to people in the midst of being quarantined.
2. After our 2 weeks of quarantine, we had 10 days to move about the community and we had a wonderful time of ministering to many of our Jamaican friends and neighbors.
3. Mike was able to reconnect with many of our ministry partners that he had met last November as well as be introduced to a few more.
4. Mike and John had plenty of time to dream and plan for ministry in the St. Mary community. Our Missionary Team will be returning to Jamaica in mid-October for at least 3 weeks with plans for personal ministry in the community and to plant seeds for future ministry.

On the home front

Having recently taken on a new T4MM missionary family, we will be having a Team Retreat so we can get to know each other better, figure out how to best work together, and brainstorm what ministry will look like going forward. We have scheduled this retreat for September 10-12 and would appreciate your prayers as we develop as a team. We are also planning by faith for our February J-Team and beyond. Please refer to the J-Team chart, choose a team, and sign up!

J-Team Openings:				
	Feb 6-14, 2021	May 1-9, 2021	Aug 7-15, 2021	Nov 6-14, 2021
Doctors	☑☑☑	☑☑☐	☐☐☐	☐☐☐
Nurses	☑☑	☑☐	☐☐	☐☐
Patient Screener	☑	☐	☐	☐
Pharmacists	☑☑☑	☐☐☐	☐☐☐	☐☐☐
Clinic Clerk	☑☑	☐	☐	☐
Builders	☑☑☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
Teacher	☑	☐	☑	☐
Encouragers	☑☐	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

Without missionaries presently on the ground, is there some way we can minister from afar?

Absolutely! By God's grace, your generosity, and Jamaican friends and partners who are stepping up, ministry is happening and will continue to happen! We have been making requests for donations to our Relief Fund which is designed to provide for basic needs during a time of disaster in Jamaica. While we had hurricanes in mind when we first created this fund years ago, COVID-19 certainly falls into this category. Through your donations, we have been able to provide food, financial help, and work opportunities in the community surrounding TEAMS House.



Repackaging the food



Loading for delivery



Food delivery



Our Friend Cooley

You have provided food for families in our community three different times over the past four months. The first time to over 40 families (100-150 people), the second time to over 50 families (150-200 people), and this third time to over 60 families (200-250 people). Each time the food you have provided feeds these families for 2-3 days. While this is just a drop in the bucket of need, it is greatly appreciated and sought after.

You have also enabled us to provide financially for our Jamaican cooks

who count on the J-Teams as a source of income. Since we cannot bring J-Teams this year, they would have had to do without. You also have provided work opportunities to over ten men in the community surrounding TEAMS House. These men are working on a number of projects we have been needing to complete around TEAMS House all of which are still in process (and there are always more things to be done):



1



2

Project 1 digging a pit and laying PVC pipe (think septic tank without the tank) for our Caretaker House bathroom.

Project 2 digging up and repaving the front driveway to better aid with water runoff and provide a smoother, finished surface.



2

Project 3 replacing the tile on the back veranda. The previous tile was popping off due to the heat, and water was leaking into the basement. This new tile has been applied with a more robust thinset which is designed to better withstand the heat.

Project 4 moving our fence line. Our neighbors did some surveying and discovered that some of our property was on their side of our fence – so we have some property to reclaim in the rear of our yard.



3

Project 5 building a 30' x 50' multi-purpose court in the backyard to provide an area for our community children and young adults to gather. We are extremely excited about the ministry possibilities this court will provide!

GOOD NEWS! OUR NEW TEAMS BUS HAS ARRIVED!

The day has finally arrived! On July 24, our new bus arrived on the wharf from Japan where it sat for three weeks awaiting final paperwork. While Mike and John were hoping to get to drive it before leaving the Island this past trip, they will have to wait until the Missionary Team returns in Mid-October. THANK YOU to the generous family who donated this new vehicle to the ministry!



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. **The Kauffmans – for cultural adaptation and language acquisition along with full financial support.**
2. **Missionary Team Retreat September 10-12 – for team development and ministry planning.**
3. **T4MM Fundraiser Telethon – for at least 15 Watch Parties in homes and at least 10 Watch Parties in churches across the U.S.A. as well as 75 people at the actual event.**
4. **Mid-October return to Jamaica – Missionary Team's impact on the community.**
5. **COVID-19 – that restrictions could be lifted for 2021 allowing us to resume our J-Teams. Our Jamaican friends are struggling without the presence of our teams and the ministry they provide.**



Giving Opportunities

Relief Fund

We invite you to continue to give to the Relief Fund as you feel led because the needs are not going away anytime soon. The more funds we have to work with, the more work opportunities we can provide, the more food we can supply, the more physical needs we can meet.

Building Fund

\$5,000 builds one house

The Kauffmans

\$2,800/month still needed to be fully supported

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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Vital Signs

AUGUST 2020

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H E A R T B E A T

by
John Heater

Making adjustments in life is a given — making them correctly, not so much. If only there was a way to have confidence that the adjustments you are making are not only the right adjustments but that you are adjusting in the right direction, in the right way, with godly motives, resulting in following God's desires and design.

I love Paul's prayer for the Ephesians — ***I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, and that the Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith.***

(Ephesians 3:16,17)

Two things Paul prays for: to be strengthened in the inner man, and that Jesus may dwell in our hearts. The strengthening with power comes through the Holy Spirit — power to do what? To do what is right, to be what is right, to align yourself with God, His design, His heart, His commands. Jesus dwelling in your heart is more than just having received Him as Savior, it is allowing Him to DWELL in your heart — to live there, to feel at home there, to bring about change — to make adjustments to your heart. That requires faith — again, not just saving faith, but transforming faith. As we allow Jesus to rule in our hearts and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us with power in the inner man to live in line with Jesus' ruling in our hearts, we can rest assured that the

adjustments we are making are the right ones.

I would encourage you to pray Paul's prayer for yourself — and experience the joy of receiving power through the Holy Spirit in your inner man, enabling you to allow Jesus to make whatever adjustments to your heart He sees fit, resulting in outward adjustments that match His design.

Keep lookin' up,



John