

## Doing what we CAN do

2/16/21

When Covid 19 began back in March 2020, when people began working from home, when the J-Teams had to be cancelled, when no one was travelling internationally, we prayed and waited and did what we could do from home and socially distant. John and Mike travelled to Jamaica in July and August (as we discussed in our last newsletter). We met as a missionary team in September to pray, do team building and plan together. We hosted a virtual fundraiser in October because that was what we could do to encourage our partners, introduce the T4MM family to the Kauffmans and bring a report of what TEAMS for Medical Missions has been doing over the years directly from our Jamaican ministry partners. The next week, October 24, our missionary team flew to Jamaica to work together in country to do what we could do together for 3+ weeks.

We got a call from Kali Hentzel asking if we would consider hosting a YWAM DTS (Discipleship Training School) team in Jamaica in 2021. Note: Kali Hentzel is Randy and Sara Hentzel's daughter and has been with YWAM for more than 3 years. We prayed and then agreed and began to plan for a DTS team to come and do their outreach here from TEAMS house. It was a matter of doing what we CAN do. God provided this opportunity for T4MM to partner with the team from YWAM to reach our community for Christ and made it clear to all of us that this was God's plan to do something very special in all of us for His honor and His glory. What does it mean for us to "host" a YWAM team for 6 weeks:

- Organize T4MM Jamaican staff: Joe and Elaine Ramcharan, Omar, Mitsy, Dillon, Miss Yvette, Avery and Richie to work these weeks in a similar way that they work with the J-TEAMS
- Shop for groceries, house supplies, paint and other building supplies
- Provide transportation
- Be the community liaison- making arrangements, introductions and help with cultural concerns
- Keepers of all things financial: reports, pay wages, exchange dollars for J-dollars, etc.
- Listening, mentoring, and encouraging as opportunities to arise

**The Plan:** Flights were arranged, Covid tests were being taken and we were ready to go on Dec 28<sup>th</sup> until word came that 11 of the 13 students had tested positive for Covid-19. We prayed and decided to postpone the trip until Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and the students who tested negative would come and serve in Jamaica.

### **The New Plan:**

The Kauffmans and the Heaters flew to Jamaica on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 7 from YWAM joined us on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 more on January 9<sup>th</sup>. By God's grace they all tested negative and were able to travel. Eventually 2 more were able to join us and the team of 11 was formed.

### **Quarantine:**

During this time sequestered at TEAMS house, the YWAM team helped Omar and his crew build the backyard court, helped Linda finish organizing the Ministry Storage downstairs and painted the veranda beautifully. It was a busy time and they still had to keep up with the preparations for ministry, Bible studies and team meetings. Cultural orientation happened quickly as they met our T4MM staff here at the house, their family members and the others that were working on the projects at TEAMS house.



### **Meeting with Other Missionaries and Ministry Leaders and visiting churches**

The team has enjoyed meeting many Christian workers while they have been here at TEAMS house. They have heard their testimonies, their burden for the community, how God has moved in their lives and ministries and had the privilege of praying for and encouraging these faithful ministers. It is always a blessing to tell our stories of what God has done in our lives, to tell of the ways He has blessed and provided and tell the WHY we are in ministry to those who are looking to the Lord to lead them in the way they should go! It has been encouraging to the DTS team to hear and learn and have their hearts stirred in anticipation for where God is leading them after this outreach is over.

The first two Sundays, we had church together at home because of quarantine. The next two Sundays we worshiped at Highgate Gospel Chapel (Paul Hemmings) and Boscobel United Church (site for our Wednesday clinics). The fifth Sunday

we worshiped at Freedom Worship Centre where Miss Yvette and Omar Samuels attend, and John was invited to bring the message. Our last Sunday we attended Grace Baptist Church in Oracabessa by invitation of Symone Thomas with whom the team had the opportunity to minister earlier in the week. We have enjoyed the fellowship at these local churches and hopefully have been an encouragement to them as well.

### **Outreach in the Community**



The YWAM team have helped Omar and Patrick with the January and February food distribution. They bagged up the oil, white rice, brown rice, sugar, corn meal and flour both times. Half the team helped pass out the food in the community in January and half passed it out yesterday.

The students have been intentional in prayer for the relationships that God would bring to them and seeking opportunities to present the Gospel and engage these persons in Spiritual conversations. Kerry Ann's house was built from the foundation to completion by the YWAM team, Omar, Dillon, Chris, Gigs and some who lived nearby. Tuesday the 9th was the house dedication for Kerry Ann, her 6 children and her brother Orlando. We have been wanting to build a house for them for 2 years but circumstances beyond our control would not permit it until this time. This has been a reminder that God's timing is always best. It has been a tremendous blessing for the YWAM team to raise the funds for this house, to build it, to play with the children around the house, to pray with Miss Kerry Ann and to pray God's blessing on this family, their home and the community at the dedication.

The YWAM team also spent their afternoons playing with children in the Huddersfield community (where the house was built and within walking distance of TEAMS house) and teaching them Bible stories, songs, playing games and doing some crafts. It has been a blessing for them to work with some of the community members that have a heart for the kids in this community.

Sunday night was the dedication of the backyard court. The men who helped build it were invited to join the YWAM team and T4MM missionaries as we talked about the vision for this court and prayed together. It was great to see so many young men playing basketball under the lights into the evening. There was a cookout on the veranda for all who came.

These are the obvious evidences of ministry but there are so many other ways this team has made an impact: with the local hairdresser who braided their hair and the barber, to the farmers at the market as they tasted Jamaican fruits, bought jelly coconuts and asked about local vegetables and to many others who saw these energetic, God-loving 20 somethings in the community and at TEAMS house serving the Lord despite a pandemic.

### **BTCJ Graduation**

BTCJ 6 and 7 have completed their studies with the BTCJ and are ready to graduate. The graduation was held at TEAMS house on Thursday (11th) with limited guests at 3pm because of the Jamaican Covid restrictions and curfews. Sara Hentzel gave a great charge to the students. The YWAM team helped serve the catered dinner and helped us prepare for this lovely event in countless ways.



Please pray for these graduates and the former graduates as they continue to be leaders in their churches and to take what they have learned to teach others. Please pray for the classes that will begin soon and that God would supply both instructors and the students that He has prepared to join BTCJ.

## **Kauffmans**

How are Mike, Jayne and Jase doing? The short answer is GREAT. They are gaining much experience during this time in Jamaica- learning what it is like to live and minister in Jamaica. They have been a blessing to the YWAM team as they share their gifts and their missionary journey with the team. They are building so many relationships, learning to understand patois and growing in their cultural understanding too. Please continue to pray for them as they grow as a missionary family in ministering in Jamaica and for their financial support.

## **Praises!**

1. We just **have** to give God praise for the biggest blessing in all of this. Almost 5 years ago, God called Harold and Randy home by means of a violent attack, but only God could redeem such an awful thing. For Kali to return and lead a team here speaks of the awesome power of our God to bring healing and hope to this community and that fact is not lost on any of us! She is a precious, gifted young lady who has shown tremendous bravery and grace. Please keep her in prayer as the team finishes their time here and as they debrief so that they can grow and learn all that God has for them from this outreach. They are seeking His face for their next steps. Sara Hentzel traveled here to participate in the most recent BTCJ graduation. She was a great help with the YWAM team and they call her Mama Sara. She jumped in and served too, and God has used her in a mighty way in her time here.
2. We are thankful that God gave us this opportunity to come, bring a ministry team, provide work opportunities for our staff and others, and continue to bring the Gospel to Jamaica.
3. We are thankful for the relationships that have been strengthened and new relationships made with many near TEAMS house.
4. We are thankful for the backyard court and how God will use it to facilitate ministry opportunities with young men and children. These opportunities have already begun.
5. We said Yes, but God provided all that we needed to make these last 6 weeks a success. We are thankful for the continued commitment to the mission by our ministry partners stateside and in Jamaica.



*YWAM Team*



*Court Dedication*

## **Prayer Requests**

1. The Ministry of Health is still not allowing medical teams. Please pray for those who have counted on our clinics for so many years and for God to provide for their spiritual, medical and personal needs. Please pray for the believers in Jamaica to stand strong in their faith in these difficult times, draw close to the Lord and for them to care well for those in need. We would appreciate prayer for our team as we make plans for the rest of 2021.
2. We are still able to build homes, provide for physical needs, and minister to small groups of people at a time. Please pray for additional support for the Heartbeat fund, Relief fund, and Building fund.

Keep lookin' up,

John & Linda