

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

Vital Signs

Focusing on what you CAN do



2020 – the year of COVID...

2021 – still the year of COVID,

and what a mess has accompanied it! Life came to a standstill in many respects. Frustration, fear, loneliness – all came to be the “new norm.” As a ministry we are still prevented from taking our J-Teams to Jamaica – for the first time in 15 years we had to miss a J-Team, and not just one but the last five and counting. An entire year without a J-Team. Our dear friends in Jamaica are suffering – tourism is a main source of income for the island, and without it many are without income, food, or medicine. It would be easy to focus on all the ministry opportunities that have been lost – but instead, we choose to focus on what we CAN do – and God has continued to bless!

While it is true that we are not allowed to bring medical teams to Jamaica, it doesn't mean we can't go to Jamaica ourselves. This past year our ministry has had to shift from team-style ministry to a more personal-style of ministry. Each of us using our personal gifts to minister as God so leads. The Kauffmans have been focusing on cultural adaptation/ language acquisition and developing connections in the community. Anne has been focusing on working at the hospital in Allentown, redirecting medical resources to other ministries, and staying connected with her ministry partners. Linda has taken on more responsibility for hosting at TEAMS House in Jamaica and building relationships there. John is pursuing a more hands-on involvement with the Bible Training Center as well as preaching and encouraging local church congregations. A big part of our ministry is in coming alongside our Jamaican ministry partners in their personal ministries to the community. Monthly food distribution, offering prayer support, and when able, offering work opportunities. While it is very different right now, God continues to use us in the lives of our Jamaican community and to bless the work of the ministry.

Thinking Outside the Box

While it is true we cannot bring Medical Teams to Jamaica, we were wondering if we could bring some other kind of team to Jamaica. It would have to be a unique team with the availability to stay for a much longer time due to the need to quarantine. They would have to be able to minister to our community in a way that was sustainable. And ideally, they would need to be able to help the Kauffmans jumpstart their ministry in our Jamaican community.

Again, God blessed and provided us just such a team. But not just ANY team, but a team led by Kali Hentzel, the daughter of Randy and Sara Hentzel!

Kali approached us last summer about the possibility of leading a team from YWAM to Jamaica, to which we responded with a resounding YES! What an opportunity to participate in such a story of redemption and the possible impact on this community! And we were not disappointed. We had the joy of hosting Kali's team of eleven 20-somethings



for 6 weeks at the beginning of this year. During quarantine they painted, cleaned and organized inside TEAMS House, and helped build a multi-purpose court in our backyard! After quarantine, the team did kids' ministry in Huddersfield on the ballfield, built a home for a mother of six, distributed food, and did peer ministry with our Jamaican young men. Watching Kali interact with our community once again was an incredible blessing – and the impact on our community was evident.



Growing into a Ministry

One of the goals of hosting this team was to help the Kauffmans jumpstart their ministry in the community, and we are very pleased with the outcome. Through this team the Kauffmans were able to make some key connections in Huddersfield with children and their parents, with the man who runs the ballfield, and with a woman who does regular kids ministry in the community. With the addition of the new court in our backyard, Mike will begin a weekly Basketball outreach to the young men in the community on our next trip in April. When the Kauffmans are off the island, the plan is for Steaven Vassell to continue to host the young men on our court on Sunday nights. Pray for us as we disciple and train these young men, especially for Steaven.

We are so excited to see the ministry expanding and the Kauffmans beginning to see how God will be using their gifts more specifically in this community. They have begun to dream, and we cannot wait to see what all God has in store for them and us! This became even more evident when God decided to bless us with a very unexpected blessing. We have been looking for a place for the Kauffmans to live in Jamaica, both in the short-term and in the long-term, but we hadn't found the right fit – til now! We approached Mr. H, a homeowner on the same street as TEAMS House, about renting a room as needed from him. He was happy to oblige, but said he had a different proposition for us...

(flip the page, for the rest of the story)



Vital Signs

APRIL 2021

Look at what God just dropped in our laps!



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The Rest of the Story

Since the beginning of 2015, we have been looking for additional property to expand our ministry in the community surrounding TEAMS House.

Fast-forward to February 2021. We have a new full-time missionary family onboard. Opportunities for ministry expansion are once again a reality. We need housing offsite for the Kauffmans, but not too far offsite of TEAMS House. The properties on either side of TEAMS House are now unavailable — but three days before returning to the States we approach Mr. H, just five lots down from TEAMS House. We have heard he has rooms in his house that he might be willing to rent. When asked if he would rent us a room for a month at a time, he said he was willing, but would rather sell the property to us instead. He told us that in his will he had designated this house as the Lord's house and that he wanted a ministry to own it and use it for ministry. He said he was willing to sell it to us for \$200,000 USD. The house was built ten years ago, sits on about an acre of land, and has 7 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. Its yard is manicured, full of fruit trees and has the same view of the sea as TEAMS House.

1. How should we respond to this offer?

We have been praying for God to supply. We have been looking for property that would serve our needs. We have been waiting for God to clearly direct us. It is clear to us, that God has given this property to us to use for His glory and Huddersfield's good.

2. Is \$200,000 USD a good price?

While we are waiting on an appraisal of the property, the price should come in well under what it is worth. In addition to the property, the house also comes fully furnished including the equipment for keeping the property well-manicured.

3. How will it benefit T4MM?

Housing for the Kauffmans; overflow for larger teams from TEAMS House; opportunities for multiple teams; suitable for families to come and minister together. Having this property allows us to fully utilize TEAMS House for ministry including expanding structures.

4. How will we pay for it?

We need to raise the full \$200,000 USD by the beginning of August with a settlement date in September. Whatever we do not raise, we will need to borrow. The Board of Directors have personally donated \$25,000 and we are asking you to consider joining us in this endeavor.

Keep lookin' up,

John



Ways to Give

E-Giving: (fees apply)
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