

Rooting from the Sidelines

The beginning of this year we had the opportunity to host an eleven person YWAM team ranging from 19-28 years old for six weeks at TEAMS House. This was a very different experience from hosting a J-Team (average age 50) for nine days. Our role with the YWAM team was that of host and to provide opportunities for ministry in our neighborhood that we would be able to build on after the team left. YWAM provided two leaders for this team and our job was to be a resource for them, encourage them, and help in any way they needed. This role was difficult for Linda and I as we spent many years in youth ministry leading trips like this, and now we were simply watching and offering help as it was requested while still at some level being responsible for the success of this team. But as difficult as it was to adjust to our new role, the experience was amazing – and we would do it again in a heartbeat! One story that is so fun to tell is about the two leaders of this team, Kali and Tim. While they had seen each other on campus, they did not know each other well before being chosen to lead this team, and only had a few weeks to prepare the team for this

trip before arriving on the island. Within the first week of the trip, it became clear they worked very well together, so much so that the Kauffmans and the Heaters were laying odds on Kali and Tim getting married, continuing in ministry together, and ultimately returning to Jamaica as part of T4MM. Fast forward to the end of the trip. Tim and Kali returned to YWAM campus and soon began officially dating. We are excited to report that Tim and Kali will be getting married in January of 2022 and will be ministering together within YWAM for the foreseeable future – and who knows, maybe they will join us in Jamaica sometime down the road.

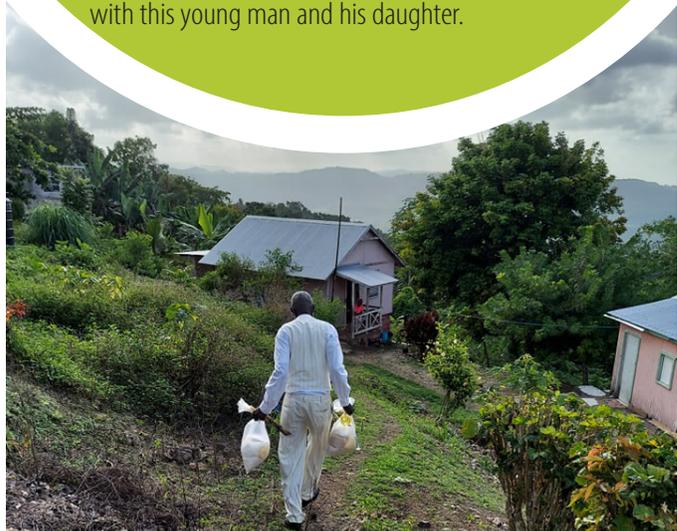


KEEP LOOKING UP!

Life is about choices. What I choose to focus on affects my thinking, which in time affects my beliefs, which in time affects my choices and actions. We live in a world with competing values and competing filters through which we receive our information. We also live in a very politicized time and are encouraged to look for answers in the political arena instead of the spiritual arena. Personally, I love living in America and being identified as an American, but my first allegiance is to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and I must pursue His values, and follow His leading on how to respond to all the circumstances of this life. My hope is not in church leaders, or elected officials, or the Supreme Court, or the WHO, or the Jamaican Ministry of Health – it is in my Heavenly Father, His Son, and His Holy Spirit whom He has sent. Our world around us is going to hell in a hand basket and its only Savior died on a cross on a hill far away, and rose the third day, offering eternal life and the promise that one day all things would be made right. In the meantime, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ in a hostile land, preaching to all in hopes of some coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. So choose wisely. What are you choosing to focus on? Who are you looking to for solutions to the problems you see? Today I choose to focus on what God is doing in and for Jamaica, remembering that He is the one who is above all, who is large and in charge, who can be trusted, and who is worthy of our obedience and worship. Today I choose to keep lookin' up!

Ministry Begets Ministry

One of the ways we minister to the men in our community is by providing work opportunities when we have projects to complete on our property. One young man has become a regular part of the work team and as such has become a good friend. His expertise is in anything electrical, and he has become an asset to us on small and big projects. He also has a young daughter who has begun a relationship with Jayne while he and Mike have begun to connect. It is exciting to see our relationships with the community becoming personal and moving from hired workers to friends. Pray for Mike and Jayne as they continue to deepen this relationship with this young man and his daughter.



You Feed Them (Mark 6:35-37)

In our backyard and surrounding neighborhoods the prayer, *Give us this day our daily bread*, is a very real prayer. Many only eat one meal a day. The need is overwhelming and breaks our heart, but Mark 6 reminds us that the answer lies in Jesus Christ, not in our wallets. While food is a felt need, a relationship with Jesus Christ is the real need. One of the ways we are able to share Christ is by also sharing food – but it is not possible to feed everyone, every day. So we do what we can, bringing what we have to the Lord and allowing Him to multiply it to meet the needs as He sees fit. In the process, we get to see Him work, we get the joy of providing a couple of days' worth of food to a few people at a time, and we get the opportunity to share Christ in the process. When you see a need that is bigger than you can meet, bring what you have to the Lord and allow Him to multiply it.

Won't you be my Neighbor?

Our neighborhood is one of the poorer ones on the island and as such gives us many opportunities to meet needs. One of my friends is a Rasta living in Huddersfield and we have developed a relationship over these past five years. He is about 70 years old and has recently been diagnosed with cancer. The last three weeks of this past trip, I taxied him back and forth to the hospital about 4 times. He has gotten to the point that he needs to be admitted to the Infirmary where he can be taken care of by trained staff. Due to COVID restrictions, no one is allowed to be added to the infirmary at this time unless it is a very special case. We have been petitioning the powers that be to allow him entrance due to his situation. Please pray that God will open this door for him. Right before leaving the island, I visited with him one more time and asked him how he was feeling. He got a huge smile on his face and said he was good because he could still walk and he had Christ. I had never heard him speak of Christ before – to be honest, I do not know what he meant by that, but I was given a glimmer of hope that perhaps God was working in his heart. Please pray for him that his relationship with God would be based on an understanding of the truth and would be centered on a relationship with Jesus Christ.

UPDATE ON FINANCES

TEAMS HOUSE(S) PROJECTS: Phase 2 has begun – over the next year we will need to raise \$50,000 to cover all the renovations on the two properties. We have begun two projects: Water Tank relocation and Storage Building which will come to about \$17,000. A third project will need to begin once we take possession of the new property: Security Fence which will come to about \$10,000.

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY: Sports equipment and supplies are needed

GATE MINISTRY (FOOD DISTRIBUTION): \$10 feeds a family for 2-3 days

CONSTRUCTION: \$6,000 builds a house – planning on building at least 4 houses in 2022

TEAMS HOUSE EXPENSES: \$200 = monthly groundskeeping/ \$350 = monthly cost of 3 vehicles/ \$600 = monthly utilities.

HEARTBEAT: Without the funds from quarterly J-Teams and enough monthly supporters our Heartbeat fund has been depleted. Heartbeat funds pay the rent, keep the lights on, pay office salaries, and keep the ministry running.



Connecting with the Community

We are constantly looking for ways to connect with our community and deepen relationships. One of the things that Jayne Kauffman likes to do is bake (her blueberry scones are my new favorite). In talking with some of the young women in the neighborhood, she discovered they did not know how to bake, and decided to invite them over for a baking class. She had about three young women come, along with a younger girl and a couple of boys. Although the event turned out to be a little different than planned, it was a huge success – and I got to be one of the taste testers. It looks like this could be the beginning of something going forward.

Mike's focus has been on sports ministry which is proving successful in connecting with several young men from Huddersfield. He is connecting with 4-6 young men specifically that are regulars who have begun to take some ownership of the basketball nights. They have also been excited about watching The Chosen with us after basketball.

One of Linda's passions is ministering to children and teachers in their schools. Our neighborhood has a basic school situated on the property directly behind TEAMS House and Linda's desire has been to connect with them for quite some time. On one of our walks by the school we



saw that they were preparing to reopen as some of the COVID restrictions were loosening. Linda was able to meet the principal of this school and donate crayons and other supplies for the children. Pray for all these connections as we continue to seek to make inroads into our community.

FRIENDS YOU CAN COUNT ON

One of the difficulties we have found working in our part of Jamaica is in developing deep friendships. I was told by a Jamaican barber that no one in Jamaica who has achieved anything was able to do it without the help of someone else. While I do not know if that is completely accurate, I have discovered that it is a prevalent thought. As a result, we are often viewed as a means to an end – food in the belly, a few J-dollars in the pocket, a roof over their head, a job opportunity. Even once a relationship has been established, denying a request could end the relationship. At other times there are deeper ties that are cultivated making the relationship feel more real, but the need for self-preservation and doing whatever it takes to advance leads to taking advantage of the friendship or at times betraying the friendship. It is difficult to not become cynical but to continue to pursue new relationships. In our short time in Jamaica we have already experienced our share of heartache over the loss of what we thought were good relationships, but we have also had the joy of developing a number of true and lasting relationships. One of those is Omar Vassell who is our foreman who oversees all our building projects both in the community and on our property. Omar has the pulse of the community, a heart for the community, and is our main liaison with the community. Omar also has a heart of compassion and chooses to sacrifice for his family, friends and community. He understands our mission and has bought into it completely. But more to the point, he is a very good friend and confidante. We share about life on some deeply personal levels and the Lord has knit our hearts together. It is also good to see the Kauffmans and the Vassells beginning to connect as families.



2022 Ministry Teams

Due to COVID, our last medical trip to Jamaica was February 2020. Since then we have been able to host a couple of non-medical teams, but medical teams have not been allowed to enter. COVID restrictions continue to thwart our efforts to restart our medical trips to St. Mary. We were hopeful we could resume medical trips in 2021, but we were denied. We are hopeful we will be able to resume medical trips in 2022 – and while that is still a possibility, we have received definitive word that we will not be able to bring a medical team in February. We will, however, be hosting ministry teams throughout 2022. Our normal J-Team schedule of February, May, August, and November will resume. Until medical teams are allowed to resume, we will focus our ministry on other community needs such as children's ministry, sports ministry, food distribution, and visitation along with building a home each trip. Once Jamaica opens back up to medical teams, we will resume our clinics. In addition to these four trips, we are also open to hosting other work/ministry teams throughout the year – if you or your church is interested in such a trip, contact us and let's explore the possibilities together.

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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Vital Signs

DECEMBER 2021



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HEARTBEAT

by
John Heater

KEEP LOOKIN' FORWARD

2022 is looking bright! We are scheduled to take ownership of our new property by the end of the year and with that, opportunities will expand. While permission to bring medical teams has been taken away from us for now, God has seen fit to bless us to make inroads into our community by trying some different approaches from which has arisen new ministry. He provided us with two different teams that enabled us to

explore different possibilities which we can now build on with our 2022 Teams. We are super excited about what these teams will look like and the ministry they will be able to do. Our prayer is that Jamaica will reopen to medical teams, and when they do, we will be ready. Until then, we get to focus on expanding our ministry and expanding our impact. We serve an amazing God who can make ministry happen, even in the middle of

a pandemic. He has chosen to expand our territory and we are asking you to help us fill the gap. Consider joining one of our 2022 Teams, and keep lookin' forward!

John



DUANE WENDLING has served as our office manager for 10 years and has been the voice most recognized by our J-Teamers. He has been the keeper of information, the organizer of trip

details, and the office problem-solver. For awhile Duane has felt the desire to return to working more within his field of expertise, and that time has now arrived. We will miss Duane in the office,

but we are excited for him as he starts his new job. Feel free to express your thoughts and thanks to Duane at Duane@t4mm.org.