



HEATER HEADLINES 2022

Whew! It's less than two weeks until Christmas Day and after that we will soon be rushing into 2023. You all play an integral part in our work with T4MM, and we want to give you an update on what God has been doing with us and with the Mission this last year. 2022 started by faith with the plan to restart J-Teams, even though permission to bring medical teams had not yet been given – by faith that some would come on a J-Team without the clinics and by faith that we would eventually get permission to bring medical teams again. And our faith was rewarded.

We were delighted to have two couples from Salem Bible Church join us in Jamaica in January to see what was happening and scope out the possibility of bringing their teens and young adults in 2023. We had several wonderful, whirlwind days showing them around, introducing them to ministry partners and discussing big ideas. When they left, the T4MM Board of Directors came for the January Board meeting, to observe, and to meet with ministry partners. These visits were profitable and encouraging and led right into the first J-Team in two years – our February J-Team 2022 (minus a medical clinic). Nine brave folks came in February. Five guys came specifically to build a house with Omar and several other Jamaican men. The other four came not knowing exactly what they had agreed to do – they met with all four of our churches for a time of encouragement and planning for the clinics when they would start back up again. While Linda was visiting the schools and bringing devotions, some came and got to enjoy that part of our ministry. Several afternoons, they helped us with an after-school program in Huddersfield playing with the kids, doing crafts, and telling Bible Stories. They also got to participate in the monthly food distribution by packing and delivering the bags of food supplies in our community. It was a great week of ministry that ended with a house dedication. They also got to see the basketball program happening at TEAMS house, the new house, and so many projects started in 2021. We returned home from the J-Team and joined John's parents, Homer and Pat Heater, for a trip to Israel. This was to be Dad's last Israel trip as the Biblical guide, and we didn't want to miss it. We were delighted to share it with our son, Mark, and Kevin and Lucy's kids: Jeremy, Ben, and Michelle and her husband David. While we were in Israel, we were delighted to receive word that we could begin to bring medical teams again in August. So, we reached out to see who would be able to come for the first medical team in 2½ years. In the following few weeks, our son-in-law, Jared Burkholder was ordained at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church, we participated in the Missions Conference at Salem Bible Church, and a Ministry Fair at Forcey Bible Church.



Now that the house at 120 Marrakech was officially ours, we returned to Jamaica in April. Once inside the house, we realized that there was much more work to be done than we had expected, and the project list was lengthy. Before we could get far on that list, we had a very special visit from Mark, Megan, Jared, and the girls in the last week of April. It was a tremendous joy to show them where Mimi and Papa work, introduce them to our friends and show them around Jamaica. They helped with the food distribution in April and helped us make some new friends too as we visited the Sun Valley Plantation. The week went way too fast but was a blessing in more ways than we can count.

Once they left, work got serious at the new house until the May J-Team arrived: Michele Harms! Yes, she was a one-woman team, and we were so glad that she came. For the first time since Covid, we were able to visit ALL our schools and bring devotions. It was great to see all the kids back in school at the same time and to bring the devotions with Michele! She also helped us paint and get the new house ready for the Kauffmans to move in, and for a team of students and faculty members arriving from Messiah University – all 33 of them. Every bed at TEAMS house was filled + one for the bus driver and 8 stayed at the new house with Mike, Jayne, and Jase. It was a great time with these students who were in Jamaica to learn and experience a different culture for course credit. We were able to show them around our community and introduce them to our ministry as well. On Saturday, they helped our mission staff host a Field Day for children in Huddersfield. We had a fun run, relays, activities on the ball field and a gospel presentation. We were grateful for their help and for the opportunity to serve our community. When we returned from Jamaica in May, we prepared for the August medical team, presented our ministry at Bethel BFC's Kid Venture, helped Eric refinish his stairs in Rhode Island, and helped move Dawson and Kate from Alabama to their new home in South Carolina.

Then it was time to return to Jamaica for the August J-Team! This team was special in so many ways! It was special for the two couples who came in August of 2021 to return with others from their churches to help this year. It was so special to build a house for Miss Yvette's brother-in-law and do repairs on another. It was special to have so many more Jamaican ministry partners join us to accomplish all that God had for us this week at the clinics, Bible Blast, and the building site. It was so special to Pastor Smith (VA) to finally be able to do a mission trip with members of his church. It was a blessing to Northwest Baptist Church to be able to provide backpacks filled with school supplies and dresses and shorts to children in several communities and to participate in the August food distribution. It was wonderful to be back in our churches hosting our clinics and seeing those special friends again. We just couldn't keep from smiling at all God did in this short time. But God was not done blessing this ministry! For some time, we had been discussing with Nickalous Walsh and Kezia Jones about starting a weekly children's ministry. Nickalous worked with



the August J-Team, Bible Blast, and with Mike's basketball ministry, so he had already met the kids. Kezia grew up in the TEAMS Bible Club and in Huddersfield and she knows this community. They both have a heart to serve the Lord and agreed to start in October. This was an answer to many prayers to have weekly Bible programs resume at TEAMS house.



In September, we finally got to take our cruise to New England and Canada with Rick and Jo Heater (this was planned for 2020, and then 2021). This was our first cruise and we enjoyed it and our two days in Quebec City very much. When we got home, we traveled to John Knox Presbyterian Church and the Celebration event there with friends of T4MM. It was so good to visit with all these folks in Ohio, but it was just too quick. We returned home for our annual T4MM Board meeting and the Celebration event at BBFC.

A work team from BBFC came to Jamaica at the end of October. They painted, landscaped, sewed curtains and installed them, built an island for the kitchen and got to know our ministry partners, our community, and our work in Jamaica. We were so grateful for their willingness to come and help in so many ways and look forward to having them back again, hopefully soon. Then the November J-Team came. There were only seven on this team, but it was another tremendous week of ministry. The medical clinics went so well, and we were able to see all our patients and give them needed medication despite the meds being held in customs for four days. This is a good time to say how blessed we have been to have Susie Partridge, Lata Wiggins and Kristin Cornell helping us prepare the medications, transport the medications, and prepare for each clinic! God has provided for us this year in so many ways. Now we are home wrapping up 2022 and preparing for all that God has ahead of us in 2023, but we want to praise the Lord for His many blessings and give you some things to pray for with us as well.

Praise:

- For J-Teams returning and the J-Teamers who came to serve the Lord this year
- For 2 Medical teams in 2022
- For the homes built in 2022
- For the opportunities to teach God's word at schools and churches in 2022
- For the residence at 120 Marrakech
- For the ministry hub that 125 Marrakech continues to be
- For weekly Children's Ministry returning to TEAMS house
- For Nickalous Walsh and Kezia Jones joining our team as Ministry Team Members
- For our Jamaican staff: Mitsy, Miss Yvette, Avery, Omar, Lily, Chris, Thomas and others who have joined us this year
- For our US staff and Board of Directors
- For more churches who are partnering with us in ministry in Jamaica
- For the BTCJ that continues to prepare church leaders for effective ministry
- Precious times with our loved ones throughout the year and the way God is moving in their lives
- For the opportunity to engage our community in Jamaica through gate ministry, food distribution, and direct care for individuals in need. What a blessing to care for them and point them to the Lord who is the only one who can ultimately meet their needs.

Prayer:

- Financial supporters for Nickalous and Kezia and for the Neighborhood Ministry fund
- For the J-Teams in 2023
- For the favor of the Ministry of Health for each of the four medical teams and for the approval of the drug manifest each time
- For the Hentzels, Teri Nichols Hines, Bethann Miller and us as we travel to Jamaica for the January 9th court hearing for the 2 men charged with Randy and Harold's murders
- For the children and children's ministry called TEAMS Faith Academy and for the Basketball ministry
- Bible Training Center of Jamaica
- For us as we seek to serve the Lord faithfully as directors of T4MM, using our gifts to evangelize, equip, encourage, and empower others in the work of the Lord here and in Jamaica. We would love to see God bring others along this year to share in the work.

Thank you for reading this long letter! We are so grateful that you choose to be a part of our ministry with TEAMS for Medical Missions in the US and in Jamaica and for the many ways you support us in this work. We would love to fill you in on more of the details and answer any questions you might have. As you see our travel schedule is tight, but we would love to schedule a Zoom call with you when you are free. Just let us know and we will get it on the schedule.

Merry Christmas and keep lookin' up,

John & Kezia

