

## Crossing Jordan

Joshua 3:5 - Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

### Miracles Required

Picture yourself camped at the Jordan River with its flooded banks. You and a million of your closest friends are waiting in anticipation to enter the promised land as was promised through Moses before you were even born. You realize God has a plan for you to enter the promised land, but the Jordan stands in the way. After three days, the word comes down that tomorrow you cross the river. You are commanded to follow the Ark of the Covenant across the river, but you are to keep a distance between you and the Ark, so you know the way to go – because you have not passed this way before. In preparation, the whole camp is to consecrate themselves, for tomorrow, the Lord will do wonders among you. You overhear the commanders telling the priests who will be carrying the Ark, that once their feet rest in the water, the water will back up, leaving dry ground on which to cross. And somehow, you are supposed to sleep tonight.

What does it take to claim what God has promised you in life and ministry?

- 1.** Pursue what God has planned for you to pursue. If God has not designed you to accomplish what you are pursuing, you have no guarantees, and you will be pursuing the wrong thing.
- 2.** When you see God moving, follow Him (Joshua 3:3).
- 3.** Do not get ahead of God. In Joshua 3:4, Joshua tells the Israelites to follow from a distance so they will know the way to go – because they have not been this way before. If we are not careful, we can get ahead of God, thinking we know the way to go, but when we do, we get lost.
- 4.** Realize God's plan is too big for you and requires His miraculous intervention to accomplish it – therefore, consecrate yourself in preparation for the spiritual work that is about to be done to accomplish God's plan. If we are to be able to hear

God's voice, be aware of His working in our lives, experience His miraculous intervention, and end up on the other side of the river, we need to be spiritually prepared.

- 5.** Fully commit. If you are confident that you are following God's plan, have been given clear directions, and are in over your head – step out in faith and watch God do wonders in your midst.

These stories from the Old Testament are not just historical records – they are for our personal growth and development in our life and ministry with God. And they are for every one of us. God's miraculous intervention in your day-to-day life is normal and constant. And it is much more effective when you see and understand it and participate in it. God's desire is for you to know Him in the same intimate way He knows you, and to work with Him to accomplish His plan here on earth for you and for those He wants you to impact for Him.



# Where God leads, He provides

In the same way God required the Israelites to step out in faith that God would miraculously provide what was needed to succeed, He also expects us to do the same. With the Covid pandemic hitting at the same time Mike and Jayne Kauffman joined our ranks, our plans for success had to change. With no teams coming to Jamaica, the Kauffmans and Heaters shifted their focus to more direct, personal ministry in Jamaica. Based on the Kauffmans' giftedness and need to adapt to all that is Jamaican, they focused on connecting with our local community and Jamaican ministry partners. One of the first ideas was to build a multi-purpose court in our backyard to connect with the 20-somethings that Mike was being introduced to in the community. In February 2021, the Colorado branch of Youth With A Mission sent us an 11-member team of 20-somethings for six weeks who helped us solidify relationships with the Jamaican 20-somethings as well as develop inroads to the Huddersfield community through children's ministry. It became clear to us that children's ministry was greatly needed in our community, and we sensed God was moving us in that direction. By representing us well, YWAM set the groundwork for the ministry that was to come. In August 2021, we had two couples join us to run a Basketball Camp and a Bible Blast (backyard Bible club type program). In February 2022, we welcomed a 9-member team and part of their ministry was focused on children's ministry throughout the week in Huddersfield. This team built on what was started by YWAM and continued through Bible Blast. In August 2022, Ray and Venus Sudduth returned with more from Northwest Baptist of Baltimore Maryland to help staff our second Bible Blast. The number of children impacted by this week of ministry grew from the year before and set the stage for the beginnings of something so much more. In anticipation of next things, we invited Nickalous Walsh to join this Bible Blast team to see if he would be a good fit, which he proved to be. We offered him and his fiancée, Kezia Jones, the opportunity to begin weekly children's ministry at TEAMS House. We are now in our 7th week of ongoing children's ministry with 56 children registered ranging from 5-16 years old. Where God leads, He provides.



## Who are Nickalous and Kezia?

Nickalous Walsh and Kezia Jones are not new to T4MM. Nickalous was in Randy's first class of the Bible Training Center and upon completion became a BTC instructor. After seeing his class through graduation, he decided to attend Jamaica Theological Seminary to receive an undergraduate Bible degree. Nickalous is both gifted and passionate about integrating Biblical Theology with internet technology to develop and teach curriculum for children and teenagers.



Kezia Jones grew up in Huddersfield and attended Bible Club under Harold and Teri Nichols for more than 10 years. When she aged out of Bible Club, she became a helper in the program. She too attended college and graduated with a degree in Social Work with a view to working with children.

Nickalous and Kezia are engaged to be married and they make a great team. We invited them to put together a gameplan for weekly children's ministry and the result is the development of TEAMS Faith Academy (TFA). TFA runs three days a week: Wednesday nights are for 9-11 year olds (Transformers); Thursday nights are for 12-16 year olds (Trend Setters); and Friday nights are for 6-8 year olds (Explorers). Please pray for the continued growth and development of this program, and specifically for additional volunteer adult helpers.

## TFA Support Team Needed

One of the ways we have chosen to step out in faith is in hiring Nick and Kezi part-time as Ministry Team Members. We are paying Nick \$420/month and Kezi \$210/month based on their given responsibilities for creating and leading TFA. The Ruth Shive Memorial Fund was set up a few years back, the proceeds of which were to be used for discipling children. These funds are allowing us to jumpstart the TFA program, but we are seeking monthly financial partners for Nick and Kezi, in the same way the Kauffmans and Heaters are supported. We are also looking for financial partners for the Neighborhood Ministry Fund as it is designed to cover the day-to-day expenses of ministering to children.

# J-Team Updates

## August 2022 J-Team

We're Back! This was our first J-Team since February 2019 to be allowed to hold medical clinics! It was so good to see our patients again after a 2½ year hiatus due to the pandemic. We were not sure what to expect after such a long time and things proved a little different with additional requirements for us to bring medical teams to serve St. Mary Parish. While most of the requirements simply included more paperwork and expense, some needed additional time to meet, which we did not have. The result was we were informed our medications might not be released by customs. After several hours of negotiating, the medications were released, and we were on our way.



We only had two pharmacists and were concerned that they might be

overwhelmed due to our patients having gone over two years without medication. But God had it under control – we had a total of 434 patients throughout the week and they came through the clinics at a steady pace, allowing our pharmacists to keep up. It was a good first set of clinics and helped prepare us for our November J-Team.

It was good to have our building team ministry back as well. Our builders had the privilege



of building a home for Tom, who recently had lost his leg to diabetes and was living in a dilapidated shack over a leaking septic pit. One of his greatest joys of his new home was that it had a door with a lock so he could feel secure. Additionally, the team was able to do some repairs on Jackie's home which was built by one of our J-Teams over 10 years before.

While our medical team was at the clinics and our building team at the building sites, our children's ministry team was at TEAMS House ministering to our community children. We held our second annual Bible Blast on site and saw our numbers increase from the previous year. This team was able to build on the ministry that had gone before, preparing for the ministry that is yet to come. Following the week of ministry, our Northwest Baptist team members stayed a few more days to distribute clothing and school supplies to children in a number of communities surrounding TEAMS House as well as help us with our monthly food distribution. It was SO good to have a full J-Team!



## November 2022 J-Team

Our November J-Team proved to be small but mighty! We only had 7 J-Teamers, all of whom were medical, but we also had 5 Jamaican volunteers helping us at the clinics. Again, customs proved problematic, and even more so on this trip. We were denied our medications on a technicality.



Without medication, we cannot hold clinics. We prayed, we negotiated, we cajoled,

we harassed – nicely, but Monday clinic came, and no meds were released from customs. By now we had been assured that the meds would be released at some time, so we still had hope. Thankfully we had some medications leftover from the August J-Team – so we prayed that God would send the right patients with the right needs to meet the medication we had – and we prayed loaves and fishes over the meds we had. By the end of Monday, every patient had been seen and were given the medication needed to address their ailments – but by now we really needed the medicine being held in customs. At 6pm, we received the call our meds were released – so we drove 2 hours to the airport, picked up our meds, and drove 2 hours home. God is always faithful and always on time.

While we did not have a children's ministry team on the J-Team, we did have children's ministry. Our TEAMS Faith Academy had been meeting for two weeks and a number from the J-Team helped out in the evenings. The Kauffmans and Linda visited local schools and at one of the schools, Jayne ran into quite a few students who were now attending TFA at Teams House. And the ministry continues to grow.



## J-Team Openings

Due to new paperwork requirements, it would be helpful for J-Team volunteers to commit to a specific J-Team as early as possible and fill out the registration form online. We have many openings in May that we need to fill quickly – if you are available, please contact us right away. As you can see, we have many openings in August and November too – sign up before they fill up! (Any pharmacists available for February? We could still use one more).

OPENINGS	FEB 4-12, 2023	MAY 6-14, 2023	AUG 5-13, 2023	NOV 4-12, 2023
3 Doctors	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓□□	✓□□
2 Nurses	✓✓	□□	□□	□□
Patient Screener	✓	✓	□	□
3 Pharmacists	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓□	✓✓□
1-2 Clinic Clerks	✓	□□	□□	□□
3-5 Builders	✓✓✓✓□	□□□□	□□□□□	✓□□□□
3-5 Kids/Sports Min.	✓□□□□	□□□□□	□□□□□	✓□□□□
1-2 Encouragers	✓✓	□□	□□	□□

## Vital Signs

JANUARY 2023



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# HEARTBEAT

by John Heater

Whenever I think of stepping out in faith I think of the scene from Raiders of the Lost Ark when Indiana Jones is instructed to step out on a bridge that is not there. Now, he cheated – he threw dirt out ahead of himself on the invisible bridge so he could see it was there – but it still required some measure of faith to cross it. But what do you do if you don't have any dirt to throw?

The key to stepping out in faith is preparation. Before crossing the Jordan river, Joshua instructed the Israelites to consecrate themselves, for the Lord was going to do wonders among them. What does it mean to consecrate oneself? Consecrate means to devote to a purpose with dedication. Devote – belief, singularly focused on the purpose. Dedication – all in, no turning back. To be in a place where I am willing to devote myself to a purpose with

dedication, I need to have something on which my faith is based. For Israel, they had 40 years of miracles in the desert before arriving at the river's edge. For us, it is God Himself, His work in our lives, His previous miracles on our behalf, and His prompting to proceed. Where God leads, He provides – and often His provision comes AFTER we step out in faith. We have no dirt to throw, but we do have faith – why not step out with us?

Keep lookin' up,

*John*



## Financial Updates

- TEAMS Houses Projects (Renovations: \$30,000)
- Missionary Support 2023 (Heaters short \$550/month & Kauffmans short \$490/month) – board has adjusted our support need to account for cost of living and ministry expense increases for which we are grateful.
- Ministry Team Members Support (Nick short about \$400/month & Kezi short about \$200/month)
- Neighborhood Ministries (children's ministries: \$1,000/month)
- Gate Ministry (food distribution: \$750/month, physical needs: as funds available)
- Construction (homes: build 4+/year @\$7,000/each)
- Heartbeat (\$9,000/month: US HQ utilities, rent, staffing, communication, supplies, travel, IT, ministry expenses)
- TEAMS Houses Expenses (\$3,800/month: utilities, maintenance, groundskeeping, staffing, taxes)