



Heater Headlines April 2023

I am by no means a great cook but what I know about making a stir fry is that I can take a lot of chopped vegetables, med-high heat in a frying pan, some olive oil and seasonings and make a delicious dish and the finished product is much smaller. So I will try to take all that has happened so far with us and our work with T4MM in the last 4 months and try to concoct a concise but helpful update. I may add some rice noodles and protein too.

Travel:

Jan 7-26 In Jamaica for the trial of Dwight Henry and Andre Thomas for the murders of Harold and Randy in 2016 with Teri Nichols, Sara Hentzel and her children and Bethann Miller

Jan 27-Feb 16 in Jamaica for the February J-Team

Feb 24- March 5 in Maryland and Virginia to meet with churches, supporters, friends and family

March 23-26 Celebrate my 60th near Skyline Drive, VA with some of our kids and grandkids

April 1-3 John in Rhode Island to visit Eric before his Sweetgreen store opens on the 18th

April 19-24 In South Carolina with Dawson and Kate and visit with Mom and Dad Heater

April 24- in Jamaica for the May J-Team

J-Teams

J-Teams are back on schedule every 3 months since August 2022. Praise the Lord. Houses were built in Aug and February. Medical clinics in the churches have returned post-covid and the only real change is that patients are staggering their arrivals some so there isn't as much of a rush in the morning. We are seeing about a hundred less patients on average so far but some of that has been God's grace as we have had at times just enough medications for the patients that come to the clinic. It goes without saying that the medical clinics provide medical care and medications that meet very real needs, but it also provides spiritual care through the devotions given, the interactions with our medical professionals and the encouragers. We are delighted that the medical teams are saying that about 75% of the patients want to meet and pray with our encouragers each day. The J-teams now can be described as 3 teams: medical, building, kids/sports ministry.

Building Ministry

The building team is much more than just providing safe shelter for a family in need. It is a ministry that starts with Omar and Patrick and their ministry to their community. They lead the food distribution each month, are involved in carrying for those in need and determine the project best suited for each J-Team. Omar brings one to three Jamaican men to the building site to work alongside the J-Teamers. They stop for devotions each day, share testimonies and have conversation with others in the community. The house dedication on Friday is the culmination of the outreach to this community.

Kids/Sports Ministry

With the leadership of Nickalous Walsh and Kezia Jones in October, a children's ministry called TEAMS Faith Academy has returned to TEAMS house and surrounding community. It looks different that the Bible Club that many remember in that there are 3 age groups meeting on 3 separate days but it is very similar in fun, Bible teaching and relationships built with the children.

The basketball ministry that Mike and Jayne started in 2021 continues. Each week the backyard court is open 2-3 nights for basketball drills, games, and devotions. The relationships formed with and among these young people are good and life-giving.



The ministry in the 4 primary schools and 5 basic schools is encouraging post-covid. I (Linda) enjoy the relationships that are growing with the children, teachers and administrators as I bring devotions in Nov, Feb and May. A side benefit is to see the children from TEAMS Faith Academy at their schools and give them a smile and a hug too. It is my hope that we can continue to be an encouragement and good partners for these schools and that we can bring the Gospel to students beyond our neighborhood. We have added some connections with other schools as well and will continue to look for opportunities in those schools.

*This summer, God has provided youth teams from Salem Bible Church and Bethel Bible Fellowship Church. These teams will be ministering to children and youth at TEAMS house and beyond in Huddersfield and Mango Valley with Nicholas and Kezia. Bible Blast will return in August for the 3rd year – this 5-day VBS style event is a highlight for the children in our community.

Bible Training Center Jamaica

Nickalous Walsh has taken over the role of Director and is meeting with the Executive Committee and graduates and planning for the opening of new classes in Port Maria, Highgate and Annotto Bay.

The BTCJ 8 class graduated in March 2023. BTCJ 9 and 10 continue in Port Maria and Ocho Rios. It is exciting to see pastors and church leaders from different churches and denominations come together to study the Bible and be equipped for ministry through nonformal theological training and discipleship.





The Heaters

Between our time in the US and Jamaica, we are enjoying empowering others to serve the Lord with their gifts, talents and ministry opportunities: our US staff (Ann W, Jane L, and Marie), the Kauffmans, Nick and Kezia, Omar, Patrick, Maxia, Sharon, Caresia, Mitsy, Yvette, Avery, Oshane and the Ramcharans. That ministry partnership is what we love to do and brings us great joy. It is exciting to have Ipree (Kezia's sister) and Pinky (Mitsy's daughter) eagerly join in with ministry as they are able. The opportunity to empower J-Teamers and other ministry teams to come, serve the Lord alongside and return home to their church and community blessed and energized is incredible. Knowing that this ministry of empowerment is extending beyond us to students that Nick and Kezia are training to help them with TFA, Omar's mentoring of young men through work opportunities, church leaders and the BTCJ students is mind-blowing. Praise the Lord and His work of multiplication.

At T4MM, we say that our four pillars are: evangelize, equip, encourage and empower. We love that in all that T4MM is doing in Jamaica God's word is shared and His plan for redemption through Jesus Christ is communicated and we are pointing others to the Lord who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. John is enjoying opportunities to equip more frequently through teaching weekly Bible studies and leading the ministry team in daily devotions.

In this season, our days can be filled with lots of organizational and administrative tasks that in and of themselves do not look like much but when we keep these goals and purposes in mind we are thankful that God has called us to this ministry. This year, our time is split fairly evenly between Jamaica and the US and that is stretching us pretty thin. The phone calls, meetings, connecting and communicating happen in both places and our plates are pretty full. Thankfully, the Lord has allowed us time to connect with our kids and grandkids, for rest and recreation and provided for us to be fed spiritually at our home church and churches along our way.

Praises:

- For good health and God's provision for us personally throughout this season
- For ministry partners who serve, support and pray with us
- For God's provision for our children (Eric, Hailey, Jared, Mark, Dawson and Kate) in new and expanding work opportunities and for Megan as she serves at BBFC and homeschools the girls
- For our grandson coming in July
- For the expansion of ministry opportunities in Jamaica

Prayer requests:

- For wisdom as directors, for encouragement in the disappointments and discouragements that come with ministry, for strength and good health and for clear direction.
- For finances: there is a need for us to raise \$50,000 to make up for shortfalls and \$4000/month to fund all the ministries going forward. For an explanation of all the different ways to support T4MM: [Donate | Teams for Medical Missions \(t4mm.org\)](https://t4mm.org). Additionally, we need to raise about \$600/month for our personal support.
- For the May J-Team May 5-14. Please pray for the approvals needed from the Ministry of Health, the health and safety for the team as they travel, effective ministry and their personal spiritual enrichment.
- For Nick and Kezia's wedding this weekend and for them as they begin their new life as husband and wife.
- For the youth teams from Salem Bible Church (June) and Bethel Bible Fellowship Church (July) and the August J-Team (26 members so far) as they prepare for their ministry here this summer.
- Pray for pharmacists in August and November especially and for J-Teamers to join be a part of the Kids/Sports Ministry part of the J-Teams going forward.

Thank you so much for reading my not so concise update. There is so much we want to share so that you can understand what God is doing in and through us. John and I are so grateful for your prayer, support and encouragement and want you to know we appreciate you and always love to hear from you!

Keep lookin' up

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