

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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Vital Signs

APRIL 2024



TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS
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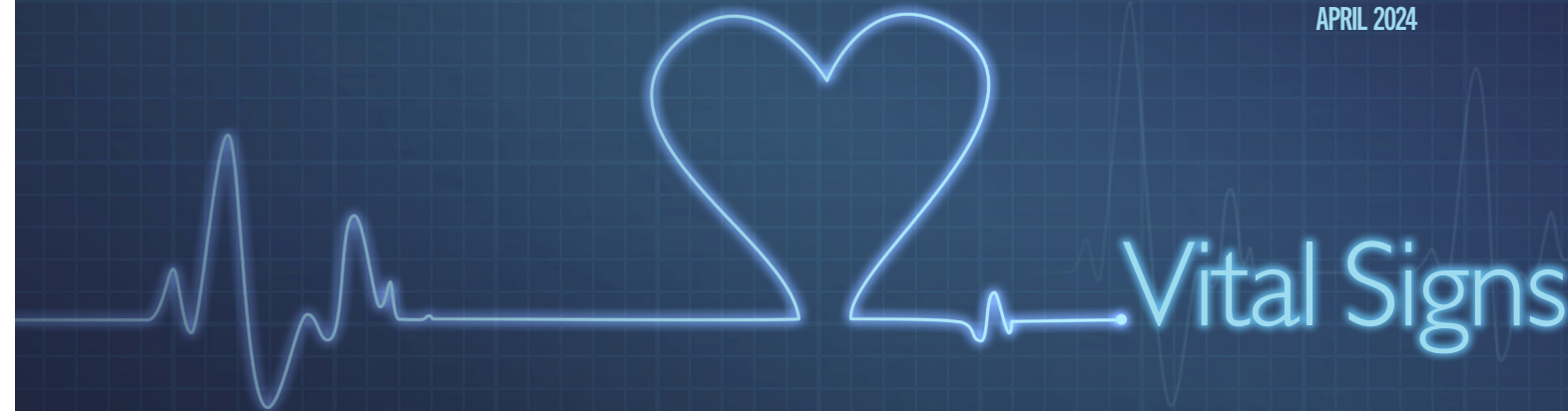
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Ephesians 4:16 – the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Jamaican Staff

Avery, Yvette, and Mitsy serve our guests at TEAMS House making each team feel at home and well cared for.



Jamaica Ministry Partners



Maxia and Sharon volunteer in our clinics. Maxia also serves as a community liaison of sorts – connecting needs to resources.

Patrick is a deacon at one of our clinic churches, leads our food distribution team and helps us vet possible house recipients.



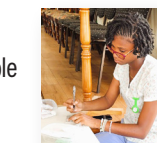
Omar serves as foreman on all projects, community liaison, and helps us vet possible house recipients. Jackie helps the Kauffmans at the Residence, and Linda at the schools.

Elaine serves on our Jamaican board, serves as liaison with all Jamaican governing bodies, and transports our teams.



Sadeeta is a Pharmacist, who runs her own pharmacy and provides many of the medicines we use in the clinics. She is an invaluable medical resource and will be volunteering in one of our May clinics.

Ipreeme volunteers with TFA, the clinics, food distribution, and is a Bible Training Center student.



HEARTBEAT

by John Heater



Go therefore...make disciples...baptizing them...teaching them... Matthew 28:19

Water baptism is an important part of being a disciple, a follower of Jesus. Water baptism is the outward symbol of what has taken place on the inside – Spirit baptism. The Greek word *baptizo* means to dip/ to immerse. When a person wanted to dye a piece of cloth purple, they would baptize the cloth into the purple dye. When finished, the cloth would be identified as purple. When a disciple is baptized in the name

of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, he identifies as a follower of Jesus. In Jamaica, many who would call themselves Christians are not willing to be baptized, yet, because when a Jamaican gets baptized, the community expectation is that everything in his life will line up with being a follower of Jesus. And if/when it doesn't, the community will call him on it. So it is especially sweet that two of our dearest friends and ministry partners in Jamaica chose to be baptized recently. I had the privilege of baptizing Ipreeme Jones this past November and Omar Vassell this past February. Ipreeme is Kezia Walsh's sister and helps with TFA, our J-Team clinics, Food Distribution, Bible Blast, visiting shut-ins, and is a BTC student. Omar is our foreman, he vets potential house recipients, serves as community

liaison, oversees all renovation projects, and is a dear friend and brother. This step of faith is a big deal – and it is the beginning of something awesome! Please pray for Ipreeme and Omar as they continue to grow in their faith, and in their reliance on the Holy Spirit to remain obedient to God's Word, and on God's power to continue to be formed into Christ's image one day at a time. God is so good – and it is fun to watch Him work!



Keep lookin' up,

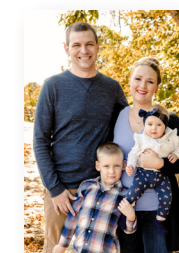
Ministry is a team sport. God has designed us to relate and work together. Each of us has been gifted in different ways with the expectation that we use our giftedness in concert with others' giftedness, to accomplish what He has called us to do. TEAMS for Medical Missions is a very small organization made up of two missionary families, three part-time staff, and a volunteer board of directors. Without the teamwork of US Churches, J-Teamers, and Jamaican partners, we would not be able to accomplish what God has called us to do.

TEAMS for Medical Missions exists to lead people to obedient faith in Jesus Christ and equip Jamaicans for effective ministry. We seek to link the Church in America with the Church in Jamaica by means of American Missionaries, Jamaican Ministry Partners, and short-term Mission Teams in the ministries of Teaching, Evangelism, Aid, and Medical Services.

It has been a while since our last Vital Signs, so we have lots to report, but before we do, I would like to remind you of the many individuals who are part of our larger ministry team.

Missionaries

Mike and Jayne Kauffman (Jase and Paige) use their sports ministry and team leading background to focus on community ministry in Jamaica.



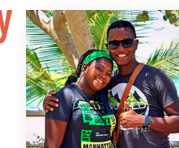
U.S. Office Staff



Jane, Ann, and Marie keep our U.S. office running, managing the balance sheets and keeping the lines of communication with all of you open and flowing.

Jamaican Ministry Team Members

Nickalous and Kezia Walsh are the Directors of TEAMS Faith Academy (TFA), our children/youth ministry. Nickalous also serves as the Director of the Bible Training Center of Jamaica (BTCJ).



J-Teamer Testimonials

One thing I remember about my J-Team trip is how we all work together as one unit with different parts to support each other. It's almost like



we have been working together for years. I enjoy working with new people in the clinics and finding out from new J-Teammers how they see God working through them.
~ Linda Lowe-Echevarria (Aug 2023)



It was a blessing to be able to serve together as a family and meet other believers who wanted to serve in Jesus' name.
~ Jenny Holsinger (Aug 2019)

What resonates most from the May 2023 J-Team is the powerful evidence that this Mission is being used by God to bear multigenerational fruit in the community. The yard and

classroom are full of kids again, fellowshiping and learning Scripture under the leadership of young adults who grew up playing and praying in that very same yard. Praise the Lord.



~ Dean Mast (May 2023)

I loved serving with my husband, mom, two sisters, niece, and church family. My favorite part was teaching Bible stories to children at Bible Blast with my one sister.



~ Venus Lowe-Sudduth (Aug 2023)

We have a heart for missions, but not necessarily the training to be "missionaries." As a teacher and a builder, we found a place we fit at T4MM.



~ Debbi and Brian Harley (May 2019)



I remember having team devotions each day. This was such an impactful part of the trip for me – it unified us in Christ and reminded us that although we serve in

different ways, we share a common purpose.

~ Danielle Holsinger (Aug 2019)

On my first J-Team trip in November of 2015, I had the chance to serve with my parents and my son which was such a blessing. During this trip I fell in love with the people of Jamaica.

When you look at what they have or don't have

and how they praise the Lord and are grateful through it all, it just makes you want to keep going back.



~ Beth Gambone (Feb 2019)

Catching Up

May 2023 J-Team

Devotional Theme:

Bold Entrance (Hebrews 4:16) – focused on prayer.

Stats: 12 J-Teammers (4 first timers); 545 patients seen; 1860 prescriptions given; one house recipient; 9 schools visited; lots of children



Cool things:

- Nancy Gravatt served on our care team from Chantilly Bible for a number of years and always wanted to come on a J-Team – finally was able to come!
- Dr. Dean Mast's first trip since before Covid – it was fun to see the excitement of his return and his joy at seeing the children's ministry on property flourishing.
- Alan Robertson is a multi-gifted man, and we took advantage of all of them: builder, children's ministry, school ministry, encourager, and photo ministry.

We tried something new last summer that we have been talking about for quite some time – hosting Youth Mission Trips. We hosted two teams, both of which sent a small delegation in 2022 to see, pray, and plan for this past summer.

June 2023 Salem Youth Team (from Macungie, PA)

Devotional Theme: Work Out Your Salvation (Philippians 2:12,13) – focused on living out our faith.

Youth Team: 9-member team

Ministry:

Bible lessons in 3 Basic Schools (pre-school), Food Distribution, Meals on Wheels, Home visits, Work Project, Afternoon Children's Ministry (TFA), Peer Ministry to/with Jamaican teens.



Benefit to Salem: teens pushed out of their comfort zone, new experiences, impacted their faith, shared their testimonies, taught at schools, and jumpstarted Salem's Youth Missions program.

Benefit to T4MM: began ongoing relationships with our TFA children and teens, brought Jamaican teen groups together, expanded our relationship with schools, started our wall project and left funds to finish it, brought 3 months' worth of snacks for TFA, and enabled us to try something new (Meals on Wheels).

Salem will be returning with a 21-member team June 15-23, 2024.

July 2023 Bethel Youth Team (from Emmaus, PA)

Devotional Theme: Work Out Your Salvation (Philippians 2:12,13) – focused on living out our faith.

Youth Team: 13-member team

Ministry: Food Distribution, 3-day sports/children ministry on field, Work Project, afternoon children's ministry (TFA), Peer Ministry to/with Jamaican teens.



Benefit to Bethel: are now a part of ongoing ministry, were pushed out of their comfort zones and connected with people in a different culture, impacted their faith, and intentionally built relationships with Jamaican teens.

Benefit to T4MM: began ongoing relationships with our TFA children and teens, helped TFA attract new children, created expectation of future teams to minister in our community.

Bethel and First Baptist of Allentown will be joining forces to return with a 17-member team July 19-27, 2024.

August 2023 J-Team

Devotional Theme: Don't Worry, Be Holy (1 Peter 1) – focused on what it means to be holy.



Stats: 26 J-Teammers (14 first timers); 423 patients; 1947 prescriptions given; two house recipients; one big Bible Blast with lots of children!



Cool things:

- Everything about this team was BIG! Largest team to date, 14 of which were first timers with fresh perspectives; built two houses in two different communities 40 minutes apart; hosted lots of children (did I mention we had lots of children?)
- Multiple families and church families came to minister together
- We had many young and energetic J-Teammers (and some older, yet energetic J-Teammers)

Training and Discipleship

TEAMS Faith Academy / Youth Discipleship

TFA has grown to 100 children registered with about 70 in attendance each week.



The children are divided into 3 groups by age: Explorers (ages 6-8) meet on Fridays, Transformers (ages 9-11) meet on Wednesdays, and Trend Setters (ages 12-16) meet on Thursdays and some help with the younger groups.

A few of the older teens have chosen to enter a Youth Discipleship program with Nickalous and Kezia – pray for these: Toni, Marley and JR

BTCJ Leadership Team

The Bible Training Center of Jamaica's leadership team pictured: Maxine Martin, Claudia Howard, Alpheus Perry, and Nickalous Walsh (Director); not pictured: Marilyn Blake and Michael McGregor.

Since Nickalous has taken on the leadership of the

Bible Training Center of Jamaica, he has hit the ground running and new life has been breathed back into the program. At present BTC class 9 in Port Maria will be graduating sometime in April and BTC classes 10 in Ocho Rios and 11 in Highgate are going strong. Michael McGregor, the class instructor and graduate of the first BTC class under Randy Hentzel, says BTC class 11 has the feel of BTC class 1 in its enthusiasm. That is very exciting – both for this class and the program as a whole! Two of our own are in this class: Kezia Walsh and her sister, Ipreee Jones.

BTC class 12 will begin soon in Annotto Bay – waiting on at least 12 students to register.



Our August 2024 J-Team is at 27 team members, and we still need one more provider – come join the fun!

November 2023 J-Team

Devotional Theme: You Can't Outgive God – focused on generosity.

Stats: 12 J-Teammers (5 first timers); 555 patients; 2132 prescriptions given; one house recipient; 9 schools visited; lots of children.



Cool things:

- Our house recipient was Marilyn Blake, a graduate of our BTC program – this house is giving her a fresh start and she is excited to minister from her new home.
- 4 couples came on this team.
- Regina Watson came from Community of Faith Tabernacle, Springfield VA – her Senior Pastor, Dewey Lane, was on the Heaters' first J-Team in November 2013. It was awesome to have another J-Teamer from their church.
- We had as many Jamaicans partnering with us on this trip as we had Americans – that was AWE-SOME! And it has become the new norm.

Our November 2024 J-Team is desperately in need of team members – sign up now, you won't regret it!

February 2024 J-Team

Devotional Theme: All I Need – focused on sufficiency in Christ.

Stats: 15 J-Teammers (4 first timers); 683 patients; 2313 prescriptions given; two house recipients; 9 schools visited; lots of children.

Cool things:

- We were able to accommodate two house recipients who live side by side in Huddersfield. Baldie received a new house and Mr. Grey received a new roof. Because the houses were so close to TEAMS House, the medical and children's ministry team members were able to see more of the process of building a house.
- Baldie's house dedication was special – he even sang a song for us that he made up on the spot.
- We were able to see 683 patients – those are pre-Covid numbers! We are hopeful these numbers continue.
- Jane Leeser, who has served 20 years in our home office, joined us and served as our Clinic Clerk.



J-Team Openings:

OPENINGS	AUG 3-11, 2024	NOV 2-10, 2024	FEB 1-9, 2025	MAY 3-11, 2025
3 Providers	☑☑☑	☑☑☑	☑☑☑	☐☐☐
2 Nurses	☑☑	☑☑	☑☐	☐☐
3 Pharmacists	☑☑☑	☑☐☐	☑☑☑	☐☐☐
1 Clinic Clerk	☑	☐	☑	☐
3-5 Builders	☑☑☑☑☑	☐☐☐☐☐	☑☑☑☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
3 Kids/Sports Min.	☑☑☑☑☑☑☑	☐☐☐	☐☐☐	☐☐☐
1-2 Encouragers	☑☑	☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

Other Giving Options

(talk with your financial advisor for more details)

- **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** - you could name T4MM as a beneficiary of your account or you could request a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to T4MM
- **Donor Advised Fund** - an easy and flexible way to grow funds intended for charitable giving and the opportunity to select T4MM as a charity than can benefit from your giving
- **Charitable Gift Annuities** - you can realize a steady stream of payments and know that you'll be making a profound impact on T4MM
- **Charitable Trusts** - add flexibility and control over more extensive charitable contributions and divide how and when your assets are used between charitable and non-charitable beneficiaries
- **Planned Giving** - selecting and using a well-structured giving approach that offers tax efficiencies, can reward you as a donor, your heirs, other beneficiaries and charitable organizations that you choose
- **Wills and Legacy Planning** - give through your Will and estate plan and know how you will make a mark on this world for the future as you put your Christian beliefs and stewardship ideals to work today