



Update from 2024 so far...

How does your garden grow?

J-Teams and other guests are enjoying seeing the progress of not only the fruit trees on both properties but also in the container gardens that Kezia has been planting and tending at TEAMS House and now additionally at the Residence. It is just so nice to harvest soursop off the trees for the sorbet for the team and we are hopeful to get enough mango (of the Julie variety) into the freezer for mango sorbet. We rejoiced as we enjoyed the pop choy from the garden and mangoes from Miss Elaine's garden.

Isaiah notes the comparison in Chapter 61 verses 10- 11 between the growth in gardens and the work that God does: "I greatly rejoice in the Lord, I exult in my God..." "For as the earth brings forth its growth, and as a garden enables what is sown to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations." We too want to exult in our God and the Work that He is doing:

We praise the Lord for the 9 first timers on our February and May J-Teams – they jumped right in with the veterans to serve, asked great questions and brought excitement and enthusiasm to their J-Team, joining the growing family of J-Teamers who love and support this ministry. We are blessed by those who continue to return to serve time and time again and build strong relationships with many here in Jamaica and with their fellow J-Teamers.

We are so incredibly excited about the ministry that Nick and Kezia Walsh are developing with TFA. Both Ipreeme and the TFA volunteers continue to be a huge help and are growing so much. We are excited to see what God is doing in them and through them all with the kids in our community. The discipleship group continues to meet regularly to build the foundation they need to grow strong in the Christian life as well as enjoy some fun activities and encourage one another. It is good to have Mike, Jayne, Jase and Paige here to encourage and support the many community ministries in February and June-August and building relationships with our ministry partners and community.

The builders enjoyed working close to TEAMS house in February as they built a house for Mr Baldy and built a strong roof over Mr Grey's house. It was so close the rest of the team could check out the progress during the week. In May the builders traveled way up in Day's Mountain and despite the rain and the mud, they all said it was a great week and they enjoyed working together to build a home for Kethia and her 3 children. The pictures show the houses, but it is so hard to describe the special relationship that the building team forms with the house recipients, their family, the neighbors and community. It is an obvious demonstration of God's love and grace. The house dedication continues to be a highlight of the week for all of us.

We continue to be encouraged by the growth and vital part our Jamaican ministry partners play in all that is happening here around TEAMS house. Some join us in leading devotions and prayer at the schools, bring us words of encouragement and strengthen our faith. They also minister alongside the J-Team and sometimes plug in to open positions on the J-Team; they manage the distribution parcels of needed food to the needy, serve their neighbors, churches and families faithfully and are developing their own personal ministry within their sphere of influence.

Since Nickalous has taken over the reins of the BTCJ last spring, we have seen growth and a growing excitement among the students, leadership team and previous graduands. The graduation in May for BTCJ9 was so much fun and very inspiring. The graduands' enthusiasm for their instructor, Michael McGregor, classmates and for the Word of God was clearly demonstrated. It was a very joyous night and fun to see so many alumni and pastors attend to celebrate with them and their families. Both the BTCJ10 and BTCJ11 classes are going strong. Nick is teaching BTCJ10 in Ocho Rios and Michael McGregor is teaching the BTCJ11 class in Highgate (the J-Teams this year have enjoyed visiting this class on Thursday evening and getting a taste of what BTCJ is all about—and we are all excited for Kezia and Ipreeme who are students in this class). Please pray for the next two classes in Port Maria and Annotto Bay to get enough students registered to begin soon.



We enjoyed the opportunity to host 29 students and faculty from Messiah University. Their travels in Jamaica were part of their college course studying culture in Jamaica. On Thursday May 23rd, Labour Day in Jamaica, the students participated in a day of service alongside some of our TFA kids, ministry partners and community before they moved on to their next stop in Montego Bay.

We have thoroughly enjoyed having the mission team from Salem Bible Church in PA with us this week. They have led devotions and shared the Gospel all week at the primary schools and taught all 3 TFA programs. They also built relationships with the youth and served the community so well all week. Next month, Bethel BFC and First Baptist of Allentown are joining forces to bring a team of youth and adults in July (and our 4 sweet granddaughters, too). It is a joy to see how God uses these mission teams to continue to spur growth in our ministries, ministry partners and themselves.

How can you pray for us:

With growth can come growing pains and the need for maintenance. Please pray for Omar, Perkie and Roshane as they work on our special project at the residence (120 Marrakech). They will be fixing up the “broken room” by fixing the ceiling and replacing the broken tiles on the floor, installing an air conditioner, curtains and fresh paint in time for us to use it to house some of our overflow of J-Teamers in August. Other tiles that have popped up in the house were replaced earlier this month. We praise the Lord for a donation to our special project fund that enables us to move forward with this project.

As the BTCJ program continues to expand, we have exhausted our supply of study Bibles and need to purchase 20 for the new students. Each study Bible costs about \$40. If you would like to donate to this project, please designate your gift to the Jamaican Ministries Fund and drop us a text or email that this donation is for the BTCJ Bibles.

Please pray for us:

We will be returning to the US for about 3 weeks to handle administrative responsibilities with the mission, visit at Winfield Bible Chapel and prepare for next 2 teams. Renovation is underway at our house to remodel a bathroom and prepare a bedroom for John’s parents on the ground level as well as make a study for Dad in the garage. We will return to Jamaica to prepare and host the mission team in July and then stay through the August J-Team. Please pray for wisdom and clear direction for our work with TEAMS for Medical Missions. We would pray for safety, good health and for endurance in this busy season.

Keep lookin’ up,

John and Linda Heater
TEAMS for Medical Missions