

# TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

OCTOBER 2024

## Vital Signs

### Jus Dweet!

**James 1:22 - But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers.**

It's Sunday morning and your church is commissioning the latest Mission Team to [fill in the destination], and you are wondering what it would be like to go on a Mission Trip to another country. But you think you are too old, or too busy, or the cost would be too much, or language would be a barrier, or you don't have the gift of evangelism – so it is not for you, at

least not now. Well have I got a surprise for you! You are NOT too old – Miss Dorothy (pictured) is 87 years old and has come on many J-Teams and is returning this November. You are NOT too busy – well maybe you are, but it is worth it – get coverage for your work. It would NOT cost too much – it is very doable. Language is NOT a barrier –

Jamaicans speak English! The gift of evangelism is NOT required – J-Teams need all kinds of gifts. But the main thing we need is YOU! Stop making excuses, stop worrying about the what-if's, and just do it. Or as they say in Jamaica, Jus Dweet!

Perhaps hearing from some who have gone before you will be encouraging.



### Testimonials:



In February, I had the opportunity of getting to know the young people a little better, from fellow J-Teamers to the young adult Jamaicans who are working with TEAMS. It is such a blessing to see the younger generation loving Jesus and others.

-Debbie Harley



My favorite things are: Serving with old friends and making new ones. Reconnecting with my Jamaican friends. Learning during daily devotions and talking with other believers. Watching the home recipient inspect the house during construction and seeing her happiness at the dedication. Enjoying the wonderful food and hospitality at Teams House. Knowing that lives are affected by our health care, building ministry and work with the children.

-Larry Wiggins



I noticed, yet again, the "family" of TEAMS. Children of God from many different backgrounds and cultures, and two different countries serving together with one/His unified purpose. Being in the midst of the love and camaraderie is heart-filling, and sitting back and observing it in its pure action is to witness one of His rich treasures.

-Michele Harms

TEAMS for Medical Missions and their Jamaican Ministry Partners are amazing, loving, caring, funny, fun to be with. The J-Team was meaningful, I plan to do it as many times as I can fit it in. I am retiring and it may be 3 or 4 times a year.

-Brent Shick

Over the course of my week, the insight into the culture of Jamaica was amazing. Most impactful was how the Lord worked on me in ways I was not expecting. Seeing how the body of Christ is made up of so many different parts and functions.

-Joseph Twardy

There were two teachers on our J-team who were invited to lead devotions in the community schools. Scripture, as it's called, is still a regular part of the school day. Close to 2,300 students heard a clear presentation of the gospel that week. After finishing at school, the teaching team returned to the clinic to tell Bible stories to the waiting children and offer friendship and counsel to the adults.

-Steve Partridge



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Whatchathink? You game to join us? Perhaps you still feel like going is not for you – we can respect that. You can still be involved in what God is doing and what He is calling us to do with Him. When you support T4MM, you play a vital role in bringing the gospel to Jamaica and making disciples of Jamaicans. We cannot do this ministry on our own. You and your finances are needed for this ministry to operate. We have an incredible group of supporters who have come through for us time after time – and for that we are grateful and humbled. But the ministry is outpacing our present base of supporters, and we need more help. Perhaps give an end of the year gift. Perhaps become a monthly supporter. Either way, please pray about joining our team.

## Look at what God's been doing!



### May 2024 J-Team

**Dates:** May 4-12, 2024

**Devotional Theme:** The Standard (Philippians 3) – focused on how we are to live our lives

**Stats:** 15 J-Teamers (5 first-timers); 562 patients seen; 1941 prescriptions filled; one house recipient; 9 schools visited

**Cool things:**

- We had a doctor on our advance team so we were able to do some home visits for some of our patients who cannot make it to the clinics during the week.
- The building team was able to build a home for Kethia and her 3 children. It was a joy to see the community and her church come together in support, by recommending her, in helping her with household things she would need to settle into her new home, and with spiritual support as the family of God.



We knew we were leaving her in good hands going forward. Working together as a team, American and Jamaican, was priceless.

- The opportunities for ministering to children in St. Mary continue to grow and the connections made are real and lasting. One of the things T4MM offers is the opportunity to return time and time again to continue ministering to the same group of children and adults.



Where God leads, He provides.



### Messiah University Team

**Dates:** May 21-25, 2024

**Stats:** 29 team members

**Cool things:**

- This is the second time we were able to host a group of college students from Messiah University for 5 days of a 3½ week cultural exposure trip to Jamaica. During their visit, they were introduced to what ministry looks like in St. Mary, Jamaica, to our local ministry leaders, and enjoyed great conversations about Jamaica, life and how one lives out their faith in a cross-cultural context.
- The students planned a day of service that coincided with Jamaica's Labor Day, May 23. In Jamaica, this is a day of service within your own community. With such a large team, they were able to spread out between 7 different specific projects. Their many hands made light work while painting at 2 basic schools and a primary school, filling potholes on Marrakech Drive, giving the Residence wall a much-needed face lift, and laboring in Kezia's garden. It was a huge encouragement to have these students from abroad join in these community projects and they enjoyed an unforgettable cultural experience.



### Salem Bible Youth Team

**Dates:** June 15-23, 2024

**Devotional Theme:** Living Life on Purpose (1 Peter 1:1-19) – focused on living life to the full

**Youth Team:** 22 team members

**Ministry:** Led devotions at 4 primary (elementary) schools; Food Distribution; Soup outreach in Mango Valley; gave testimonies and helped with 3 days of Teams Faith Academy; work projects; participated in game nights and introduced a worship night on the court; visiting the disabled with prayer and acts of service.



**Benefit to T4MM:**

powerful message and presence in our primary schools; expanded the number of individuals with needs we could touch – one of those, named Val, passed away just a couple of months after Salem was able to minister to him in a significant way by cleaning up his house as he was not able to clean it himself. God provided Salem to meet this and other needs in a timely manner. Salem provided and installed propane tanks, line, and cook stove for our cooking staff to use to speed the process of cooking large pots of food.

**Benefit to Salem:** students returning to see the fruit of their labors from the year before and build on them. Salem will be returning with another team June 14-22, 2025.



### Bethel BFC/First Baptist Church Youth Team

**Dates:** July 19-27, 2024

**Devotional Theme:** Living Life on Purpose (1 Peter 1:1-19) – focused on living life to the full

**Youth Team:** 17 team members

**Ministry:** Led a 4-day VBS at Boscobel United Church; work projects; helped with 3 days of Teams Faith Academy; participated in game nights with our TFA teens

**Benefit to T4MM:** expanded our impact on Boscobel United and its surrounding neighbors by leading a vibrant VBS program; ministered to our TFA students



and Jr Leaders; deepened connections between our Jamaican students and students from the States with hopes of continued mutual ministry down the road.



One of the greatest joys T4MM affords is to facilitate a wide span of ages joining in the ministry. We believe just about any age can minister if given the opportunity and direction. Often the little ones are more fearless than the rest of us.



Youth teams give our children's ministry a boost of encouragement and excitement. Our children look forward to having their friends from abroad return, and the friendships formed are lasting. Only time will tell the complete spiritual impact of these teams, but we are seeing our children and teens growing in their faith.



**Benefit to Bethel BFC:** students and leaders returning to see the fruit of their labors from the year before and build on them.

**Benefit to Bethel and First Baptist:** 2 U.S. churches collaborating with each other and with a Jamaican church to impact Jamaicans for Christ.



## August 2024 J-Team

**Dates:** August 3-11, 2024

**Devotional Theme:** What You Think Matters (Philippians 4:8) – focused on how to think

**Stats:** 28 J-Teamers (16 first timers: 9 from same church)(12 families represented)

### Cool things:

- Northwest Baptist Church of Reisterstown, MD sent a contingency for the fourth year in a row. The church that does mission trips together, grows together – and is a blessing to this ministry and St. Mary, Jamaica.
- Redeemer BFC of Topton – a local PA church that chose to send one of their pastors along with a group from their church to minister with us. For most it was the first time on a missions trip to Jamaica and for some, this trip was the beginning of many more to come.
- Families ministering together is always special as



they bring a unique dynamic to a team. This was the first trip with T4MM for the Porters, and we hope it is not the last. Watching them minister both as individuals and as a family brought a smile to our faces. Families that minister together and do missions trips together, grow together and impact their world together.



- It has been a long time since puppets were introduced to the children's ministry program, and what a treat it was! The children loved them, and the teens enjoyed learning the finer arts of making a puppet come to life. We are thankful for the precious gifts of these puppets and stage.



One of the benefits of having multiple teams, one after the other, is the opportunity it gives our Jamaican Ministry Team to train our Jamaican Jr Leaders. Throughout the summer our Jamaican Jr Leaders took on more and more responsibilities resulting in personal growth spiritually, relationally, and volitionally, while developing their leadership and ministry skills. Ministering side by side with other followers of Christ their same age was not only an encouragement to them, but to our American volunteers as well. Peer to peer ministry, going both ways – that is what youth mission trips are all about. We want to put out a big thank you to our Mission Teams from this past summer and to your leaders – your ministry was real and is ongoing and we are looking forward to seeing the relationships



you have started with our Jamaican youth deepen and grow over the years to come. Job well done!

## J-Team Openings

J-Teams continue to be a foundational piece of our ministry in Jamaica. We have been highlighting other areas of ministry that are growing and that we are excited about – but we do not want to do so to the detriment of our J-Teams. Our J-Teams provide the stability to our ministry to our Jamaican community. It is the piece that communicates that we are in St. Mary to stay where God has called us to bring the good news of a life with Jesus Christ – bringing the gospel to bear on all of life. J-Teams provide the framework and credibility for volunteers from the States and other parts of the world to come and minister to our Jamaican communities. It is difficult to fill 4 J-Teams a year. We need between 16-20+ per team to minister in the way we have designed the ministry. We need very specific skill sets and qualifications for the medical piece, and we need open hands and willing hearts for the building and kids/sports ministry pieces. Consider joining a J-Team – but be careful, once you come once, you will be hooked!

OPENINGS	FEB 1-9, 2025	MAY 3-11, 2025	AUG 2-10, 2025	NOV 1-9, 2025
3 Providers	✓✓✓	□□□	□□□	✓✓✓
2 Nurses	✓✓✓	✓✓	□□	□□
3 Pharmacists	✓✓✓	✓□□	✓□□	□□□
1 Clinic Clerks	✓	□	□	□
3-5 Builders	✓✓✓✓✓	✓□□□	□□□□□	□□□□□
3 Kids/Sports Min.	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓□□	□□□
1-2 Encouragers	✓✓	□□	✓□	□□

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM

# TEAMS for MEDICAL MISSIONS

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## Vital Signs

OCTOBER 2024



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# HEARTBEAT

by John Heater

James 1:27 – Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Christian Life is meant to be LIVED! What is happening on the inside is to be reflected on the outside. Our beliefs are to result in actions, giving our faith hands and feet. The gospel is to be preached, Jesus' love is to be demonstrated, and people's needs are to be met. The gospel is so much more than words, and ministering to others in their time of need is so much more than just being nice. Everything is about relationship – my relationship with Christ impacts my relationship with everyone else. My relationship with everyone else is a reflection of my relationship with Christ. And how I relate to others is to direct them to the Savior. One of the biggest joys in this ministry is to be in a position to be the hands and feet of Jesus in very

tangible ways, and while doing so, direct people to Jesus. This also requires keeping ourselves unstained by the world. If we are to correctly reflect and represent Jesus to a dying world, we need to look and act like Him. This is what God calls each of us to do – whether it is in Jamaica or in our own backyard – so Jus Dweet!

Keep lookin' up,  
John and Linda



THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU!



A little over a month ago, we put out an urgent financial request – and the response was overwhelming! Our original request was for \$36,000. But then we received a matching gift of \$35,000 – and what came in was over \$95,000! The amount of sacrificial giving on behalf of this ministry was humbling. Thank you for your confidence in us and your financial support and prayers for us.