



## 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Give thanks in everything, for this is God's Will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Greetings on this last day of 2024!

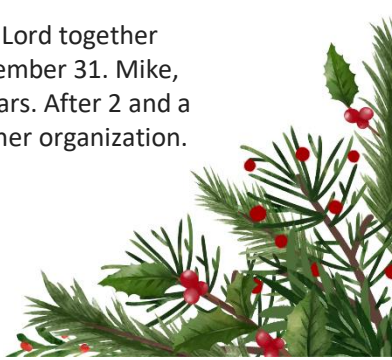
Can I just take a minute to catch you up on the last 6 months of ministry and life for the Heaters? John has given an update in the Vital Signs of all the mission teams and J-Teams but I want to give you the highlights and prayer concerns from us personally.

Let's begin with giving God thanks. Serving with TEAMS for Medical Missions has meant that we get to meet and minister with so many wonderful people. You would expect us to rave about serving with our children, grandchildren, John's parents and our nephew but it has also been a treat to serve with board members, supporters and friends we've known for over 30 years. This is certainly a perk with this ministry. We also count it a privilege to serve with friends from NY, OH, MD, VA, SC, TX, PA, IA, NC, and Panama and to be collaborators for Christ with so many different churches. The camaraderie that happens when volunteers come together to serve the Lord with T4MM is incredible. Then to add that this ministry is shared with our Jamaican ministry partners both young and not so young is an absolute privilege. It has been an amazing year and our hearts are full of gratitude and the precious memories of all that God has done in 2024.

Our travel schedule for these last 6 months has been very full. We were in Jamaica for the July Bethel/First Baptist mission team and stayed for the August J-Team. Mid August, we returned to the US to focus on the responsibilities as directors and to meet with and communicate with our US ministry partners. For more updates on these teams, please check out the reports from October and December: [Vital Signs - Teams for Medical Missions](#). In October, Nickalous Walsh and Ipreeme Jones were able to get their visas to travel to the US. They came the weekend of our annual T4MM Board retreat and only had 10 days to visit with ministry partners, churches, board members and local staff in MD, PA and NY. This time was so good but went by so fast. We thoroughly enjoyed those visits and only we wished we could have spent more time with each one and were disappointed that we couldn't get around to visit everyone. Nick, Ipreeme, John and I then traveled to Jamaica together to prepare for the November J-Team. It felt like we just kept moving from one major event to the next this fall. It was a great team. I especially enjoyed having so much support from the Kids/Sports ministry team at the schools, in the clinics and with TFA. We were amazed that our 2 builders with Omar, Perkie and Roshane were able to get the house done in 3 and ½ days because of Tropical Storm Rafael. The clinic team was incredible as usual but it was so nice to have a full team this time. It was especially helpful when it came to home visits and when they added an afternoon to see the patients missed during the storm. But as we always say, God builds the team, He provides exactly what we need and every team is unique. We had a month in the US before heading back to Jamaica to celebrate Christmas with our ministry partners there. We were able to help with the last food distribution of 2024, help prepare for the Christmas celebrations for the Explorers, Transformers, Trendsetters, and Discipleship group, enjoy a Christmas dinner with most of our team here in Jamaica and make valuable connections that we can't do when we are focused on a team.

On the home front, the renovations are coming along. The exterior projects are done: siding, front walkway and landscaping, garage doors and patio in the back off the new bedroom. The bedroom, bathroom, and living room were finished before Christmas and John's parents, Homer and Pat, moved in and are enjoying their new apartment. Up next, Dad's study will be built so he can finally get back to his library of books. They have made friends in the area already and Dad is happy to have opportunities to teach and preach here in PA even if he really doesn't care for the cold temperatures.

We are so very grateful for our coworkers and for the opportunity we have had to serve the Lord together with them. After 20 years with TEAMS for Medical Missions, Jane Leaser will be retiring December 31. Mike, Jayne, Jase and Paige will be leaving T4MM Dec 31st after serving with us for 4 and a half years. After 2 and a half years with T4MM, Marie Giacobbe was offered a fulltime position in her field with another organization.





Work on the farm and time with her grandkids is calling to Ann Wendling, so after about 14 years as the T4MM business manager, she will be leaving us at the end of January. We have treasured the time we have had to serve together and are thankful for the blessing that each of these valued team members has been to us personally and to TEAMS for Medical Missions.

### **What's new in 2025**

Nick and Kezia will be adding an additional group to TFA. For some time, they have acknowledged the need to put a limit to the Trendsetters group. Going forward this group will include only students in high school. Those that are out of high school will have an opportunity to come and study the Bible and fellowship together on Wednesday evenings after the Transformer group. In addition, Nick, Kezia and Ipreeme have begun offering some informal tutoring opportunities and homework help for TFA kids.

### **News regarding a new position for Kezia Jones Walsh:**

Kezia will be heading up our Gate ministry, which meets the physical needs of members of our community. She will continue to assist with food distribution and home visits. With the collaboration of ministry partners and team members, she will distribute resources and bring encouragement and support to the individuals in our neighborhood. This will involve managing donations and providing assistance in accessing medical care, skill training and educational opportunities. Kezia's training in social work and the Bible Training Center (BTC) will be helpful for her as she serves as our Community Liaison.

### **How can you pray for us:**

- 2025 will be a time of great change for TEAMS for Medical Missions. Please pray for us as we seek to add office staff and additional missionaries for Jamaica.
- We have an urgent need for 2-3 providers on this February J-Team and for the rest of the J-Teams in 2025. Pharmacists are needed in May, August and November as well. Please pray for God's provision for J-Teams.
- Pray for wisdom and stamina for Nick, Kezia, Ipreeme, and the Vassells as ministry expands and their responsibilities increase.
- Please pray for the continued growth and maturity of TEAMS Faith Academy and The Bible Training Center of Jamaica.
- Pray for us personally as we balance doing life with John's parents at 995 Donald Drive, staying involved in the lives of our children and grandchildren, overseeing the day to day operations of T4MM, and leading ministry teams to Jamaica.

### **Special Prayer Request:**

With the expansion of the ministry, we need to expand our financial resources. This includes recruiting additional financial supporters and encouraging present financial supporters to become more invested. Our trust is in God to provide the needed finances, but we are responsible to make our need known. Please pray for us as we get the word out, and please pray about how you can play a role in partnering financially in this mutual ministry.

Keep lookin' up and stay in touch,

John & Linda Heater

