



American-Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation

Volume 5, No.1 Summer, 2013

WHO ARE WE: American-Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation was founded in 1995 to provide free health care to the rural poor in the United States and Jamaica. In 1999, the foundation expanded its services to include free medical, educational, and spiritual support to the poor in Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda as well. Our management team consists of a board of directors. AJL is not a membership organization; services and activities are provided and carried out by people who are willing to give back to the community and share our vision.

The AJL is an excellent outreach ministry to partner with. Any humanitarian oriented organization, church, Sunday School class, civic group or individual who desires to help those in developing countries from Jamaica to Africa can do so through AJL. Please consider becoming a volunteer, a partner or sponsor in helping to build the lives of those in need. Someone is waiting for you to show up and let them know someone cares. Some are called to go while others send. Whatever capacity you fit in, there is a place for you. Join us today and be a part of the "Helping Hands, Holding Hands Worldwide Campaign".

Within the USA, send donations to:

AJL Charitable Foundation
114 Ragan Drive, Gray, GA 31032

Within Jamaica:

AJL Charitable Foundation
New Bethel Zion Church, Parottee, PA.
St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

The AJL Charitable Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. Email us at info@usajalink.org or visit us at www.usajalink.org for more information on upcoming trips.

Dates for UPCOMING AJL Trips

Oct. 14 - Oct. 24, 2013 KENYA
Dec. 14 - Dec. 24, 2013 NIGERIA
Mobile Medical Mission - JAMAICA -
March 28 - April 5, 2014
VBS/Medical Mission - JAMAICA
June 28 - July 6, 2014

Dare to Dream

Natasha Bennett



My name is Natasha Bennett. I hail from the beautiful island of Jamaica, in a small fishing village called Parottee, in St. Elizabeth. I am currently a first year law student at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

On May 11, 2013, I graduated Summa Cum Laude with my BA in Administration of Justice. Before I go any further, I must say that I am at this point in my life because of the people that God sent into my life to help me through. I have my beloved grandmother Lucia Hall who has been to me the kind of mother that my Mom—may her soul rest in peace—prayed that God would bless me with. My grandmother was, and continues to be my pillar of strength. I also had a church community to support and keep me spiritually grounded. It was God who created the opportunity for me to study in the United States, when in 2008 Mrs. Rose Brooks and Dr. Clyde Green of the American-Jamaica Link Charitable Foundation assisted me to come here in 2009. The third phase of my life started on July 30th, 2009 when I landed at the Baltimore–Washington International Airport.

The third phase of my life showed me what it felt like to experience true pain in all its forms, and what it felt like to truly experience God's precious love. While here in the U.S, God stood by me and enabled me to make the best out of my circumstances—today I am an honor graduate and a law student. I am an example of someone who made it thus far because I dared to believe in my dream to be educated, and had the audacity in the face of

impossibility to strive to achieve it. I did not do it alone because along the way many people helped or are helping to make my dream possible. I had Dr. Clyde Green who assisted me with my tuition, Mrs. Rose Brooks who gave me shelter, my professors who provided me with opportunities to excel, Dr. Massey who provided me with a range of needs—tuition, shelter, food, and emotional support, Dr. Epps who provides me with a home, my aunt who encouraged me when I was weak, my family who stood with me in good times and in bad, and the list goes on and on.

I am truly blessed. I am a child that God has humbled and made into His chosen. I am so thankful for my life, and I thank every person that is or was in it for making my story unique. I am a VICTOR not a victim, and I am forever thankful to God who is at the CENTER of who I am for making that possible. And to the person reading this: please understand that before you can have a testimony you must overcome the test, and before you can get out of your life's mess you must understand God's message for your life. Also understand that the pain that you go through is not to hinder your growth or to thwart your ambitions. Your pain is God's gift to you to make you a conqueror through Christ Jesus because in your weakness, Jesus Christ strength is made perfect. Remember, God gives the hardest battles to His toughest soldiers, so don't give up until you win the battle God has given to you.



AJL's July 2013 Medical/Mission Team

Sativa Volcy

This trip was filling to the soul. GOD not only allowed new opportunities, established new relationships, manifested new visions but I also received confirmation again on my purpose regarding medicine and so much more. I knew coming on this trip was going to be amazing but GOD has once again exceeded my expectations; it was so much more than I ever expected! Even after the trip I entered a season of change where GOD began to speak and shift some things in my life. Letting go of the old things and transitioning in the new! I didn't understand everything that was going on but GOD continued to speak sending "love notes" and "inspirational tokens" I call them; with a constant reminder from Isaiah 43:18-19.

Attending this trip is one of the best things I've done in awhile. It has allowed me to be more thankful, grateful, and most importantly allowed me to opened up my heart more to have that divine connection with GOD! I have enjoyed every moment and will remember the memories of this trip. From the constant jokes from Cuzin Clara to singing praise and worship on the way to church, gaining insight from research and looking in on our medical team in the clinic to gain firsthand knowledge and experience up close and personal, to sitting in the ocean enjoying the beautiful view reflecting on the goodness of GOD. This medical/mission trip has been fuller than I ever expected. It really makes one appreciate what one already has here in the U.S. Everyone from the missions trip was welcoming and a joy to be around. We put in work but also had fun which was great. By observance I did learn that medical missions are not for everyone. Some people have a hard time adjusting to the culture changes. When coming to Jamaica one has to be very flexible because situations arise that one has never experienced or seen before. By being on this trip I not only finished my public health research regarding health literacy and cultural competence of the AJL clinic, but I have established some great friendships with the members of the 2013 team. I look forward to many more medical mission trips with the AJL team! Thank you all for everything!!! :



Evangelist Clara Washington

The mission theme this year was "Trust in the Lord". Rest means to be refresh. Thank God I was refreshed in the Lord during my time in Jamaica. The Lord blessed me and Jesus to be over the "Day Service". When the patients came in the church to wait before seeing the doctor, I had an opportunity to share Christ with them through a song or a word of encouragement. Tasena McCreary, a graduate student from Mercer University in Macon, Ga worked along side me. We sang praise & worship songs that led to some accepting the Lord Jesus as their personal saviour as well as receiving their healing.

During the revival campaign I had the opportunity to bring the evening message on Wednesday night. A young man came in drunk and talking loudly. When he came to the altar the Holy Ghost sobered him up and he went back and listened to the word from Psalm 37:5. When the altar call was made he was the first one to come up along with a large crowd of *alias - Cuzin Clara* young people ready to surrendered their hearts to Christ. It was a beautiful service where God was glorified.

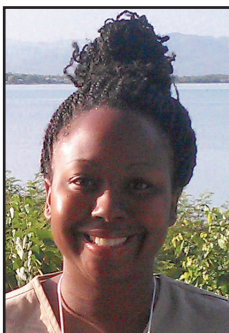
I always enjoy the street service and home visitation. Oh the joy of sharing the gospel with my bedridden brother. It blessed me to see him clapping his hands and moving with joy as we sang. It was a wonderful time. Thank God for the AJL Mission Team.



Tasena Lynn McCreary

My AJL experience advanced me forward into my destiny and made more things clear regarding my purpose in the nations. It was a week full of delight and each experience food, friends, research, patients, team, environment, scenery, services and other ministry opportunities were all influential and beneficial.

I am grateful beyond words for God writing my AJL experience into my destiny.



Missionary Carrie Mack

This has truly been a blessing once again to visit Jamaica. A mission of hard work and great rewards. To teach the children about our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is all about Jesus. Teach Jesus and people can live and love each other. It was truly an honor to see Mother Green & Deacon Green and all my brothers and sisters that I don't know by name. In other words, I made a trip home to see family.

To show love and worship Jesus Christ together. I carried Jesus in my heart and I saw my wonderful savior move. Yokes were broken and souls were freed.

Now, as I prepare to travel back to America, I'm making plans for next year's journey back home (Jamaica). I thank God for the chance to embrace my family across the waters and I give special thanks to Dr. & Cheryl Green for allowing me to be apart of such a great ministry. God Bless.

Dr. Yolanda Ragland

This year's missionary trip was particularly fulfilling as a member of the medical team because God provided an opportunity for us to mentor two lovely young ladies interested in careers in the medical field.

Each of us knows that God operates in abundance, so He not only supplied us with them, but He brought two other young women, enrolled in a program to obtain their Masters in Public Health who were professional and diligent to work with God's people. He didn't stop there (my God!), but He also made a way for Darius, Dr. Green's son being trained to serve God's people through medicine as well, to join our team this year. I truly believe that our purpose was increased as a result of all of these young people and I thank God for His consistent and persistent blessings on our lives as a collective.

I had a wonderful time with the children and their families and I thank Dr.



Green and his family for continuing to welcome and to allow us to give our supplies...it's truly a blessing!



My name is **Tevin Green**. I am currently a senior at Tattnall Square Academy in Macon, Ga. I would like to say that going on

mission trips for almost 18 years consecutively has been a blessing to me. I feel like I've touched the hearts of many as I interacted with young people and served in the pharmacy in Jamaica. Missions, to me has changed my way of life. For example, getting up in the morning not knowing whether or not we had running water in the line to wash with, I realize I am blessed beyond measures. Finally, I would like to end this by saying that even though I will be going off to college next year, I will not forget the great memories that were captured during the time I have had in Jamaica. I will miss Jamaica tremendously and I hope I can find a way back to my family. God Bless and thank you a lot.

Linda Stevens



Late to bed and early to rise started our mission day. Every morning I'd walk along the ocean shore and behold the awesome works of God's hands before preparing for the mission field. Upon arrival, the Vacation Bible School students and the medical clinic patients were anxiously waiting our arrival.

Each day I got off the bus, I thanked God for His plans for me that were not understandable years ago. Visions of being on the mission field would leave me wondering at an early age, who, when and if it would ever come to pass. God's plans and thoughts were more than I could imagine and at the appointed time; He brought it pass. At a Women of Grace Retreat, Brenda Phelps told Dr. Green of my interest in foreign mission and the rest is history.

This year marks my 8th trip to Jamaica since I've become acquainted with AJL. I truly thank God for the vision, the visionaries and how this foundation has afforded me an opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream of being involved in mission work.

Vacation Bible School was in session while the clinic was treating patients. We would break for Noon day service and VBS overview. Following that we enjoyed delicious Jamaican delicacies prepared by Ms. Nellie and her staff.

The theme for this year's VBS was "God's Peace Plan, Know God, Know Peace." The classes were taught by Nina Adams, primary; Brenda Phelps, middle-schoolers; Carrie Mack & myself co-taught the teenagers with excellent lessons and fun crafts activities. Clara Washington hosted the noon day service and the outreach ministry for the patients waiting for their clinic visit

As part of the outreach ministry, we had an opportunity to visit the local shut-ins and have a mini church service. We had the script flip on us when we visited a blind retired 7th Day Adventist preacher. He told us the scripture read, as he expounded upon the word. We left him smiling as we climbed on the van singing and praising God.

The revival/campaign went hand in hand with the VBS theme. The campaign theme was "Trust in the Lord", from Psalm 37:5. If we trust in the Lord in all areas of our lives we will know God and have peace.

I thank the Lord for gracing us while in Jamaica. I also thank Him for everyone receiving us with open arms. To God be the glory for all the things He has done. I miss my sisters and brothers in Christ in Jamaica already.

Darius Green

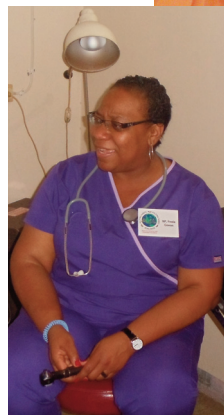


Jamaica is almost like a second home to me. One thing I do always enjoy is the sense of peace I get anytime I am there and the love that I receive from family and non-family alike. Since I was younger, serving others has always been something that we did as a family and when I was younger I didn't necessarily like it. Now, I have come to find the joy in bringing joy to others. Being a helping hand in any facet of the mission whether it is helping in the pharmacy, as well as assisting the nurses, working with the missionaries or running miscellaneous errands. Each trip God opens my eyes to something or someone new that always has a positive impact on my life.

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Clinic & Home Visitations

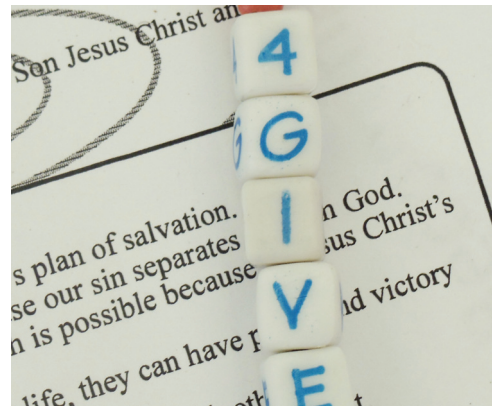
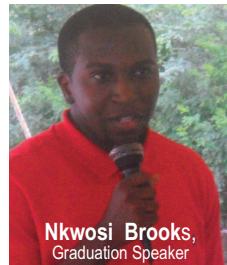
AJL has been and continues to be "Helping Hands & Holding Hands Worldwide". The team continues to work to fulfil the vision of its founders, Pastor Victoria Green & Dr. Clyde Green.



New Bethel zion 2013 Graduation



Vacation Bible School
July 2013



The excitement was present as families and friends gathered from far and near to culminate the end of another school year. This year's graduation was a wonderful celebration for the four young graduates of the New Bethel Zion Early Childhood Development Program. Under the leadership of Principal Joy Finikin, they marched with pride and dignity as the music played. As the program began, current students sang and several of the former students shared their gratitude for the knowledge and training they received when they were apart of the student body. They acknowledged their current success had everything to do with the foundation they gained while at New Bethel.

Mr. Nkwosi Brooks was the perfect person to serve as the speaker for this occasion. A young man that admonished those male graduates to work hard to accomplish their dreams and to be gentlemen at all times. He shared that how they carry themselves in life, would open or close doors to their future and that they should dream big and again, always be a gentleman. The graduates received their certificates and gifts with lots of smile. All in all, it was a wonderful occasion for all in attendance.



The former students of New Bethel Zion Early Childhood Development Program continue in the path of academic success. Many come back to share their experiences with the rising graduates and give thanks to Principal Finikin & Mother & Deacon Green for sowing into their lives





Preparing for Service

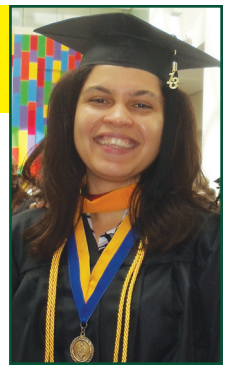
My name is Wanda Massiah and I am from the beautiful island of St. Lucia. After working for four years, I finally decided to take the next step in my life and head off to college. At the age of 24, I began my studies as a biology major at the University of the District of Columbia.

My four years there had its challenging moments, but with the support of family, friends and a few answered prayers, I persevered and got through it. Of course it was not all about the books. I joined a few clubs and was the President of the Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society. Being a member of these clubs were both fun and beneficial. I was able to volunteer on some research projects, as

well as, go to a few conferences focusing on student research.

On May 11, 2013, I graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelors of Science Degree. My next step is medical school which I hope to start by fall 2014.

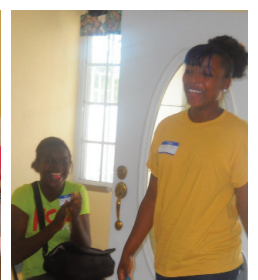
For the past 3 years I have been volunteering and working with the American Jamaican Link Medical Clinic in Jamaica. Every year I've spent the first week of July serving the community of Saint Elizabeth, Jamaica. This type of service is something I hope to contribute to do in the future when I become a doctor.



Young Women of Grace - Jamaica



This year the uplifting Young Women of Grace program was shared for the first time with 10 young girls ages 12-17 in Jamaica. The mission of YWOG is to give hope and empowerment to youth through the word of God and fun activities. The inaugural class was held at the lovely home of our host, Ms. Catlyn Parchment on July 3rd. Along with Brenda Phelps were two dynamic facilitator, Jenika Hammond & Brooke Williams. Their icebreaker had the girls laughing, sharing and even showing off some island dance steps. After the fun time the girls shared their dreams for the future and completed the workbooks "God's Blueprints for My Life". Each youth received a YWOG messenger bags full of donated gift items. We finished the afternoon with lunch and a leisure walk around the Black River community. It was a great beginning to the YWOG of Jamaica and I look forward to our next fellowship in 2014.



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Dr. Virginia Wright: This year's mission experience in JA was different indeed as I was afforded the honor of combining Ministry, Medicine and Education. Although, I have been blessed to have several mentees, this was the first time I was able to somewhat "pay back" for what was done for me. As a resident, my first mission was to accompany Drs. Green & Nkwosi to Nigeria. I cannot put in to words what that experience did for me nor the impact it continues to have on how I now practice medicine and on my life in general. This year, I was accompanied by a pre-medical student, Future Dr. Brook Williams (who I am proud to say is part of a first class of DO students at Campbell) and an undergraduate student, Jenika Hammond. I believe I learned just as much from them as they hopefully learned from me. I hope to take mentees in the future as I now see the influence the mission has on our future - our students. Again, quite an honor!

Congratulations goes out to our two AJL sponsored graduates!!! On Saturday, May 11, 2013, Natasha S. Bennett and Wanda C. Massiah graduated from the University of the District of Columbia.

Wanda graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Her plans are to attend medical school next Fall. Natasha Bennett graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice degree. She also graduated with a 3.98 GPA making her the Valedictorian of the 2013 graduating class. She has been given a scholarship to attend the David A. Clarke School of Law in the Fall.

AJL VISION STATEMENT

American-Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation will strive to empower poor rural communities to become more healthy and self-reliant. Through education, medical, spiritual and social services; we will help to train health-care aides, teacher's assistants, office technologists, clergies and sponsor capital projects. Our train-the-trainer approach will reflect our commitment for each community to be a part of its own destiny. Our caring Doctors, Counselors, Educators, and friends will be committed to fighting poverty and social injustice. We will benefit from our cultural diversity, and encourage effective servant-leaders to make the global community a healthier, wiser, more compassionate place to be.

Sponsor Spotlight

Pastor Godfrey & Mrs. Launa Watson are key contacts & supporters for the Southern Region of Jamaica Food For The Poor Program. They are instrumental in ensuring school supplies and food are made available for the children in our program.



During the March 2013 Women of Grace Retreat, AJL Directors, Dr. Clyde & Mrs. Cheryl Green were on hand to receive a donation for the AJL Charitable Foundation. The Women of Grace have networked with AJL for several years and this year's project was "Readers for Nigeria". WOG linked efforts with Pastor James Swayne & the Temple of Christ PHC in Macon, GA, Elder Arlene Peebles & Alabaster Place of Winston-Salem, NC and retreat attendees from all across the southeast to collect nearly 500 of 1,000 pairs of reader eyeglasses needed for the December mission trip.



Mother Green shows off the fans presented to her by Freda Cowan and the Winston-Salem AJL Link.

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