



American-Jamaican Link

Medical/Missionary Outreach

Volume 4, No.1

Summer, 2012



WHY I PARTICIPATE



God planted an interest and vision for missions in me long before the opportunity for foreign medical missions was ever presented. As a child, I attended "summer church camp" at Shaw University. The focus of the Lott Carey Youth Seminar was on missions. There was even a song that we sang about Lott Carey, the first Black foreign missionary...I still remember the words. So, there I was introduced to the possibility of missions. There, I was presented with local opportunities to serve as a youth missionary and to learn about missions and the purpose of them from a Biblical perspective. Later, without any formalities, I became a youth leader as a teen and led efforts to visit the elderly and distribute fruit baskets. Still later, I recognized the financial aspect of missions and found ways to support missions for the homeless and battered women as well.

Finally, I arrived at Mercer for my residency and came across Dr. Nwosu. I asked him what tribe he was from and he looked at me with a surprised expression and asked me in his authoritative Nigerian tone, "What do YOU know about Nigeria?" All, I knew at that time was that I had dated someone from there and I knew the tribe that gentleman was from. And,

so the adventure began. Dr. Nwosu dug deeper and asked if I had ever been to Nigeria. "No," I answered simply. Then he asked if I wanted to go to Nigeria. "Yes," I answered, but my mind shouted, "Of course!" Then we came together with Dr. Grimsley who was the Residency Director at that time to form a "Global Medicine" elective, and I was able to go on that first mission with Dr. Nwosu as my Attending Physician & Mentor in 2005.

And so, I thought that was it! I could check it off of my bucket list. I had been to Africa. I had fulfilled a dream, but I had no idea of what God had in store! I met Dr. Green on that first mission. (It was his second mission.) He too was a Howard graduate and we bonded and quickly noticed the similarity in our desire to serve. He became my big brother in Medicine and asked if I wanted to come to the mission in Jamaica in April of 2007. Again... of course! I now joke that I do these missions because Dr. Green makes me do them, but seriously, the desire is like an unquenchable fire. Like a thirst that makes your mouth water more with each sip of the mission experience...and so, off I went to Jamaica for a mission. It was both a humbling and exciting experience. I must pause here to give thanks to God

for the mission experiences AND for the big brothers he sent me; for I was merely a resident in training on that first mission and a fellow on the next mission, but they had enough confidence in me to encourage me to participate.

After accepting this call to missions, I had decided (without prayer) that I would participate in a mission every other year and then do a personal vacation during the years that I was not on a mission, but that I was not on a mission, but that was not how God planned it. The mission to Jamaica is so balanced, that I have made it to more than one. The same applies to the mission in Nigeria. As a matter of fact, each time I leave Nigeria, I cry...it feels like I am leaving home. Each time I arrive in Jamaica, I smile because this feels like I am returning home.

So why do I do missions? Because I know it is what I am supposed to do. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48 b,c Because of the joy and fulfillment that comes with doing missions. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 Because I know that what I am doing is making a difference in someone else's life who may not have had or seen a fighting chance otherwise. "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. II Corinthians 1:4 "Because He has equipped me to do it and I believe He expects me to do this. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:23



by Virginia Wright

AJL MISSION TEAM REFLECTIONS

I thank GOD for the mission trip. It was my third time around—as the song writer stated “...every



round goes higher and higher...” Surely, I went a little higher and a little deeper in the LORD and in His Word. VBS was awesome and titled “Myself and My Relationships”. Some of the teens summed it up as having respect for GOD, themselves, and then, those around them. Others said you have to get yourself together first-putting GOD in your life-before you can have a proper relationship with someone else. Still others stated that if you have no respect for yourself, then you will have no respect for others....you won’t care about the way that you act or the words that comes out of your mouth- you just won’t care! The Teen Class did a great job!!!

The theme for the weekly revival was “Go Tell” (Matt. 28:18-20). We are disciples of our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST and we are to “Go Tell” the Good News [the gospel], that, JESUS suffered and died for our sins; He was buried, and 3 days later, He rose again, having all power and authority. Many people came from both near and far to attend the Medical Clinic. Worship services were held while they waited to be seen.

Many, many thanks to the contributors and may GOD bless you abundantly!!!!!!

Missionary Eva O’Neal

For many years, Dr. Roger Theodore and his wife, Renee, invited and encouraged me to participate in the American



Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation Mission. I thank God that this July 2012, I finally made the journey. I must say, the experience exceeded anything I imagined. Our friendship has been strengthened, in a positive way, because of our involvement in AJL Mission.

First, I was thoroughly impressed with

the entire Mission team beginning, of course, with Dr. Green and his dear wife, Cheryl. They greeted us with open, loving, Christian arms. It was evident immediately and displayed over and over throughout the week that, as it is written in James 1:22, he and his team were “doers of the word and not hearers only.” Second, I was amazed at the modest resources of our host city and what amazing things the people have accomplished despite everything. In contrast, the people back home take so much for granted. Parottee is not in the part “Jamaica” pictured in travel advertisements. The people in Black River showed their love and gratitude for all we did for them, great and small deeds alike. The AJL Mission gave me the opportunity: to make do with less; to share resources brought from the states with genuinely appreciative and needy people; and, most of all, to carry out the Lord’s instructions to “feed His sheep,” and “go into the whole world and proclaim the GOOD NEWS.” As a teacher, I taught the word of God to the beautiful young children who awaited us each day. I experienced feelings of



accomplishment, fulfillment, and joy that created a lasting memory for me. We concluded each daily lesson from this year’s theme - “Myself and My Relationships” - with making related crafts. We taught the children how God created us and expects us to love Him, our selves, our families, and our country. I learned so much and truly feel that I gained more than I gave.

Finally, I returned home shouting the praises of our entire team of volunteers who put their lives on hold for a week to be God’s ambassadors in Jamaica. We came as missionaries determined to do the will of God. We received nightly reinforcements in our worship services held in the New Bethel Zion Church built by Dr. Green. I pray that God will continue to bless him and his endeavors and give him the “increase” to continue this most worthwhile project! We also got to see a very special side of this extraordinary man as he prayed and

preached! This truly humble, Christian man uses his medical degree and financial success to bring others to join him in giving service to the God of our Salvation. What a blessing to me and everyone! The words friendship, devotion, sacrifice, sharing, caring and Christian Love all have new meanings for me. I smile when I think about the “new” food I was introduced to but I survived. I was so blessed and touched by the people of Black River. I will think of them often and keep them in prayer. I pray that Almighty God will allow me to return some day to glorify Him through my acts and my words. GOD IS SO GOOD!

Bernice Harleson



Every year families from Jamaica will call and request NEEDED items and I try to take as much as possible...you see what a blessing to be able to ask family and friends to donate and they all stepped up and donated. I had 5 pieces of luggage this year filled with blessings for ALL.

As always, my husband Roger Theodore and I enjoy the mission trip. The trip serves as a salvation trip for us. We are passionate about saving souls through ministering to their needs. Over the past 11 years, we have seen Dr. Green’s vision come brighter and brighter. His vision has and will continue to inspire us to continue as long as we are able to assist with the citizens of Black River and surrounding areas. We are thankful to be a part of AJL and so fortunate to have met so many wonderful people throughout Jamaica. In addition to meeting new Jamaican friends, we have formed friendship with so many volunteers on the team that assist Dr. Green with his ministry. Thanks.

P. Renee Theodore

As I reflect back as a child; I remember looking at the pictures of my mother’s missionary literature that she received monthly. I’d envisioned one day I would be able to work in a foreign land and be

AJL Misson Reflections continued



on the mission field. It has been through AJL that my passion to serve has come to reality. This is my 7th year of service being His hands and feet.

The mission teams rises up early and go to bed late. We rise to the beautiful

sunrise and the calmness of the ocean and I take that time to walk along the ocean shore and soak my feet and legs in its warmth. This time is so precious and much needed for the busy day ahead. After we return from VBS and clinc we have only a couple hours or less to regroup from the days activities, and we are right back at church for revival.

The theme for this year's the Vacation Bible School was "God's Forever Family, Come on In" and one of the lesson included the theme of the campaign .We were under a big tent that accommodated all the classes., and the graduation exercise for the preparatory church school. All of the classes participated in

arts and crafts, and thanks to Ms. Bonnie for facilitating the classes. We had added 2 new team members to the VBS staff, Nina Adams & Shirley Maddox.

Evang. Clara Washington blessed those waiting to be seen in the medical clinic with her praise and testimony service. We also visited the sick & shut-ins with a mini church service. I was deeply moved when they joined us in praising the Lord.

I'm always blessed by the spiritual counsel and insight of Mother Green and Ms. Joy Finikin give me. Special thanks to Dr. Clyde & Mrs. Cheryl Green for being our wonderful host. Special thanks to "Daddy" Green, Ms. Rose and Ayana for your hospitality. For the delicious meal and canteen refreshment; we must always thank Ms.Nellie and her staff.



Evang Clara Washington enjoying the island fruit



Shirley Maddox feels the love



??? is the winner of the laptop donated by the Dr. Roger & Renea Theodores



2012 VBS gift backpacks



2012 VBS under the big tent



Nina enjoys the AJL experience.



It takes lots of volunteers and manpower hours to make an AJL mission happen. GO TEAM AJL

Macedonia Children and Youth Become Pen Pals with Jamaican Children

Having delivered 61 letters written by our children and youth to the children at New Bethel Zion Church in Black River, Jamaica, Mrs. Renee' Theodore, one of our volunteer teachers and the brainchild of this project, shared how happy and thankful the children were to receive the letters. She expressed that they were especially excited to find financial donations in their envelopes. The donations enabled the children to purchase a cold drink and some coco bread or chips. She noted that some children saved their money and said they were going to show it to their parents. She also expressed that the teenagers (in photo below) were especially excited about writing back to our girls and boys. Mrs. Theodore not only delivered the donations and letters our children wrote to the Jamaican children, she found the time to have writing sessions with them and brought back 51+ letters! A remarkable deed, as she was there with Dr. Theodore, her husband, who was also on mission with a team of doctors who provided medical assistance to over 200 people!

*Excerpt from "The MC Channel",
Quarterly
Newsletter
Macedonia Baptist
Church/Macon, GA*



Home visitations



**Congratulations to the
2012 New Bethel's
Graduates**
Shauntae Mason
Allan Wright
Kirkland Nembhard
Josaine Bennett
Janiy Crowe
Tishawn Shatchell
Ernie Samuels



Mrs. Annie Forbes shows
off her bicycling skills





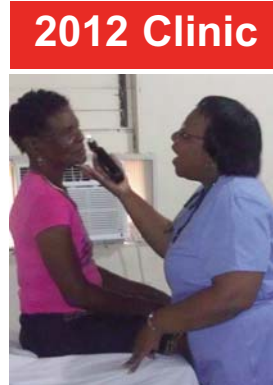
2012 Mission Team / June 30 – July 8, 2012

Evang. Linda Stevens
 Evang. Clara Washington
 Bernice Harleson
 Eva O'Neal
 Shirley Maddox
 Nina Adams

Dr. Yolanda Ragland
 Sonya Jenkins
 Freda Cowan, NP
 Dr. Roger Theodore Mrs. Phyllis
 R. Theodore
 Dr. Virginia Wright

Wilphemia Green, LPN
 Wanda Massiah
 Nkosi Brooks
 Ayanna Brooks
 Ta-Tanysha David
 Tevin Green

Keith Green
 Cheryl Green
 Dr. Clyde Green



2012 Clinic

Preparing supplies for clinic

Supporter & Contributors

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Apostolic Faith Kingdom Life Church | • Earnest Harper | • Rev. Charles & Felicia Peters |
| • Miss Archie | • Mrs. Annie Lee Hill | • Kenneth & Brenda Phelps |
| • Jerry Beckum | • Lateish Hill | • Katie Smith Poole |
| • Mrs. Betty Bolden | • Mrs. Cheryl Hitchcock | • Cheryl Powell |
| • Ms Dalita Bullock | • Elaine Holland | • Barbara Reeves |
| • Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Bullock | • Karen Howard | • Shivago Reeves |
| • Lillie Chatman | • Letashya Howard | • Mrs. Oneida Reynolds |
| • Gloria Cooper | • Kaplan Early Learning Co. | • John Simmons |
| • Freda Cowan | • Lillie Knox | • Michelle Simmons |
| • Prophet Gar Culp | • Mr. & Mrs. Lester | • Pastor Eddie Smith |
| • Rosa Dennis | • Macedonia Baptist Church | • Jimmy Smith |
| • Excel Home Care | • Macedonia Baptist Children's Ministry | • Mary Smith |
| • Faith Apostolic Church | • Macedonia Baptist Usher's Ministry | • Early Taylor |
| • Marilyn French | • Medical Specialists Staffing | • Sharon Steger |
| • Evang. Shirley Gaither | • Renee' Murray | • Mrs. Kathy Theodore |
| • GCSU Central Region Nurse Managers | • Officer Nash | • Dr. Roger & Mrs. Renee Theodore |
| • Bishop Randy & Devlyn Hagans | • New Testament Church, Ft. Payne, Alabama | • Women of Grace Ministries, Inc. |
| • Pastor G.H. Hamy | • Steve & Monica Patterson | • Matthew & Kimberly Wright |
| • Hardwick Finance Company | • Peoples Funeral Home | • Dr. Virginia Wright |

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 (Georgia) and Jamaica. In 1999 the association expanded its services to include free medicine, educational, and spiritual service to the poor in Africa (Nigeria) and Haiti 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 in our vision.

The American-Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation is an excellent outreach ministry to partner with. Any church, Sunday School class, civic group or person 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 you care. It happens every time we serve one person at a time.

Within the USA, send all donations to:

American Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation

114 Ragan Drive

Gray, GA 31032

Within Jamaica, send your donations to:

American Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation

New Bethel Zion Church, Partite, PA.,

St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

The American-Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization and contributions are tax deductible. Please visit us at www.usajalink.org for more information or the schedule for upcoming trips. You can also contact us by email at info@usajalink.org.

Dates for UPCOMING AJL Trips

Oct.15 - Oct. 25, 2012 KENYA

Dec.13 - Dec. 22, 2012 NIGERIA

Mobile Medical Mission - JAMAICA - March 23-30, 2013

VBS/Medical Mission - JAMAICA- June 29 - July 6, 2013

There is a New Mission Field

Union Island, ST. VINCENT- for June 1 - 6, 2013