

BETHEL CHRISTIAN MISSION SERVING JESUS IN JAMAICA

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Newsletter



Karen and Dean Dawson

Bethel Newswire, August/September, 2003 --

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

"If you know the Lord is keeping you.
What are you worried about?
If you know the Lord is keeping you.
Why don't you sing and shout?"

Glory Hallelujah – Praise His name!
Everyday He's just the same!
If you know the Lord is keeping you.
What are you worried about?"

I love this song because it reminds us that the Lord is always right by our side to guide and protect – so why worry? As Christians we have been given everlasting hope through our Lord Jesus Christ who has secured our future for us with Him in eternity!

With this promise we can live a life of joy instead of fretting about what the future may bring – Praise God for His goodness and mercy! Let us bask in the grace of His love and give each day we live to the Lord!

I think our staff thought that Iowa must have been pretty empty this summer! They were surprised by the number of teams that came from our home state and were "tickled pink" by our descriptions of the pink pigs we raise! Lorna won't totally believe it till she sees a picture!

Pastor Joe Karge & wife Jody brought us a team from Victory Promise Church in Woodward IA on July 30th and spent the next week working on the new Basic School at Medina while putting on a VBS for the area's children. We have worked very closely with Pastor Clark of the Medina charge over the past 4 years – so this project is very dear to our hearts. The Iowa folks learned some new and sometimes quite different ways of construction that we term "Jamaican Style". It is actually the art of having only the most basic tools to work with and getting the job done solely by the grace of God. They didn't want to leave until they completed the work, but unfortunately their time was ending before the roof was on. They did depart knowing that another team was soon coming to assist on the project also – which helped a bit! Many of these team members are new Christians who were pushing out from their comfort zone to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need. Praise God for the way He brings us all together for the benefit of good and wonderful days filled with fellowship and joy!

The Grace Church Friends & Family Team put the finishing touches on an awesome summer of serving the Lord! The ladies held a 2 day "Women of the Bible" seminar for the United Church at Hyde Park and Medina with a turnout of over 50 ladies. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and found it hard to end the sessions. The men of the team were hard at work on the Medina Basic School finishing the walls and getting the timbers up to support the roof. The community is so pleased with the assistance they were given by both teams as they have now been able to finish the roof in time for school to start.

Our Staff

We are absolutely ecstatic that Herman, our gardener, asked Jesus to be Lord of his life last week! Praise God for the living testimonies each of the team members showed to him during their stay as we know that had an impact. Too many times Jamaicans use the excuse that they do not want to be a part of the family of God because all they see are hypocrites in the church. The teams constant out pouring of love, compassion and kindness convinced him that true believers exist and The Lord is been speaking to his heart that he must make some drastic lifestyle changes.

Discipleship Training

The Ladies Devotion & Sewing Class began on Sept 10th with ten very eager students. It is held from Noon-3 pm on Mondays. Donations from summer team members enabled us to buy 3 machines and Freidberg Moravian Church sent us one – these were total blessings! We thank everyone for your generosity in supplying the fabric, thread, needles, tape measures, pins, seam rippers, buttons and scissors! We were able to make up a Sewing Kit for each of the ladies to use in class & then take home with them.

After learning how to sew the ladies can earn a living to support their families while still being at home with younger children. This is a huge blessing in an economy where childcare costs and taxi fare to a job can almost totally eat up any earnings.

Our first study is from Joyce Meyers "How to Be the Person God wants you to be". This is something very new to the ladies who are used to only going to church and hearing the message, but never being able to ask questions or have discussions about how the Bible can be applied directly to their life. It was wonderful to hear them open up and really ask some deep questions! This is a part of ministry we have been anxious to get started. Jamaica has so many women with the same hurts, confusion and dreams.

What we've learned from our new friends . . .

Love and acceptance are not color-coded.
Good "home training" is essential for children.
The lost art of pressure cooking – we're eatin' the beef now!

What Jesus is teaching us . . .

He will send us many needs to be met daily - "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt 25:40

He will refill our depleted spirits – "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11

He always hears our prayers and promises an answer – "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:19

Prayer Requests

Pray for Ronald, a young man who needs Jesus in his life. Ronald built a 8' X 8' shelter out of old zinc illegally on land owned by the Alpart Mining Co & it's gotten him in trouble with the police and his neighbours who do not want an "idler" in their community. He wants only to be left alone to fend for himself, not "giving trouble" to anyone – but that's not reality here in Jamaica. If you are unknown in the community and do not have a visible means of supporting yourself – you are an outcast that will be blamed for any wrong-doing that occurs. Pray a hedge of protection around him and that he will listen as we give testimony of how his life can become better only through our Lord Jesus Christ becoming his Saviour!

Pray for the Jamaican Government as it has now levied the 15% General Consumption Tax (GCT) on all churches and charitable organizations – much to the outcry of the people! Pray for the Jamaican people who will feel the effects of diminished services.

Pray discernment for us as we tighten our belts and cut expenses in many areas - except the ministry portion.

Thank you!

Both of us would like to thank each of you for your many prayers over the past several months since we have come to Jamaica. We feel your prayers and they encourage us daily. Keep up the good work! We would also like to thank all of our financial supporters – your generosity makes it possible for us to

