



Bethel Christian Mission Newsletter

Serving Jesus in Jamaica
August 28, 2007

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

His voice makes a difference.

When He speaks it relieves my troubled mind.

It's the only voice that makes a difference.

And I'll follow one day at a time.

What a difference God makes in our lives! When we follow His voice and His leading so much can get accomplished! It has been a very busy summer and you will see that the work is not over yet!

- May - AWANA Bible Quiz
- June - Serving the community
- July - Evangelism abounds!
- August - A Roof goes on!
- Hurricane Dean - Roofs come off!
- Praises!
- Prayer Requests:
- Thank you!

May - AWANA Bible Quiz

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth - 2 Timothy 2:15

Our Bethel AWANA team studied diligently and proved themselves to be unashamed as representatives unto the Lord at the Bible Quiz. Although there was many teams involved who have been established longer and have more members - our team took overall 2nd Place! Tiffany Guthrie took 1st Place as the overall outstanding AWANA Clubber for her knowledge of the Bible. We are so very proud of these youth and they are encouraged to reach for first place next year. All things are possible with God!

A team from St. Mary's College in Oxford OH came to build a block retaining wall for the New Broughton Basic School and also built a small addition to be used as an office area for Teacher Simpson. The wall will prevent

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mud from rushing into the classrooms each time the rains come. The team had a great time playing with the kids who were constantly curious about the construction.

June - Serving the community

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate - 1 Timothy 6:17-18

We were blessed to host a 150-member team from Son Servants who worked on 31 different projects during their ten-day stay at Bethel. They poured footings and laid block on several homes that would not have been able to start building without their assistance. They also did extensive repairs the upper floor of the administration building of the Manchester Infirmary that had been blown apart during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and made repairs to their Laundry Room and the morgue.

Fourty-five from River Oaks Church Youth came to work on the Early Childhood Development Center at Christ Cathedral Community Church with Pastor Robinson. They also poured a floor inside a room, poured a veranda and steps for Jess Ann at Wales. Jess Ann suffered a brain aneurysm several months ago and recovery has been very slow - not allowing her to re-open her small shop in the neighborhood. She and her children were so grateful for the assistance!

July - Evangelism abounds!

Infirmary. They were delighted to receive such beautifully crafted quilts as each person was prayed for and the gospel given. Although many of the patient's mental capacity may have hindered their complete comprehension of the gospel - we leave that to the Holy Spirit who can miraculously allow understanding to take place.

The "Readers Will Be Leaders" program, taught by Deborah Hentzel, trained volunteers from several communities to work within their local churches to teach children to read. Unfortunately only 38% of the children in this area can read at their current grade level. This is a huge improvement to their comprehension skills and their education will be able to move forward with the needed ability to read.

The "Youth Leadership & Ethics Camp", this year conducted jointly by First Family Church of Ankeny IA and Grace West Church from West Des Moines IA, was again a great success that changed lives, recharged good attitudes and encouraged the attendees to take charge of their life and follow Jesus everyday. Students were evaluated at the end of the week and top honors went to four who received scholarships to pay for school fees this next school year.

During the month of July, through all of these outreaches, 460 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Praise be to God for touching the hearts of these teams to come and share the joy of our Lord's gospel with the Jamaican people. To Him are all the glory, honor and praise!

August - A Roof goes on!

The Fourth Presbyterian Youth Team from Bethesda, MD worked on pouring a concrete "decked" roof for David and Donna Austin and their five children at Crosskeys. Their small one-room house had caught fire last December and they had been living in the back of a shop owned by a Jehovah Witness. The congregation from the Church of God of Prophecy came around with encouragement and witnessed to them about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Family members began to get saved which upset the Jehovah Witness who told them they would have to move out of the room very soon.

The community rose up and let the shopkeeper know that they would no longer buy anything from her if she forced the family out on the street. Contributions came forth from the community in block, cement, maul and steel enabling the family to begin construction of a new home with two large rooms.

As Hurricane Dean approached Jamaica, the team finished the roof with just 2 buckets of cement to spare - God is

good in His provisions! Their new home was spared any destruction and work to complete the inside will continue.

Hurricane Dean - Roofs come off!

Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! - Psalm 107:28-31

As Hurricane Dean was building up force to slam Jamaica, thoughts of what would be torn off or destroyed were milling in our heads. The team was able to secure earlier flights off the island as we boarded up, gathered in and bought last minute water and supplies. Karen notes that having the name "Dean" - she knew the storm would be "intense, strong, multi-faceted and determined to accomplish it's task" - that it did!

Although it is a benefit to know several days in advance of a hurricane - it is also a time for anxiety to build, as the waiting for the storm seems endless. In answer to the prayers of many, God pushed the hurricane off shore and spared the northern half of the island from destruction. A direct hit would have been devastating, but there is still much damage along the central to south coast areas.

We are still without electric - but we are so grateful for the diesel generator that has powered the circular saws for roof repair, washing machine for laundry clean-up and the deep freeze. "Land line" phone service has not been fixed as of yet - so we are relying on our cell phones for communication. Praise God for technology!

We have repaired all of the roofs at Bethel and are getting supplies readied to help out in the community. Already many folks have been supplied with zinc to do small repairs and many more are waiting for teams to come assist them. We need teams that can come and assist with repairs - so please call us if you feel God's leading to come and help! Dean's Cell is (876) 909-0683.

Praises!

We are blessed as God heard all of our prayers and pushed the hurricane south into the ocean!

We are blessed because we have our lives and our health!

We are blessed because we serve a Mighty God!

Prayer Requests:

Pray for those who have lost their roof or their entire home - may they be encouraged to know that help is on the way!

Pray for the elections that have been postponed until September 3 - that there will be peace and no violence during the last few days of campaigning.

Pray for all of the children as the return to school on September 10 (Sept 6th for Kimone). Many have had their uniforms ruined and books destroyed by the hurricane. Many schools have also been damaged so classrooms will be crowded with extra students.

Continue to pray for health and strength our family: Jeff, Kari & Brett; Jon, Brandy, David, Joslyn & Samuel, and Kimone!

Thank you!

Both of us would like to thank each of you for your many prayers - we feel your prayers and they encourage us daily. We give God all the praise and the glory because He has been so good to us!

We would also like to thank all of our financial supporters - your generosity makes it possible for us to be here serving Jesus! We pray that your households and congregations prosper under the Lord's care as you give Him honor with your gifts to this ministry.

May God bless your day and we hope to hear from you soon!

In Christ, Dean, Karen & Kimone Dawson Serving Jesus in Jamaica

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