

# JAMAICAN EVANGELISM NEWS

## SUMMER 2009

**Ed and Sharon Werner working together with Dan and Joanna Smith**

### **Work Team to Jamaica Jamaica Journey 2009**

by Mike Kennedy

I recently had the privilege of going on a short-term mission trip to serve some of the congregations in Jamaica. There was a team of 11 people from here in the northwest who went to help out with Vacation Bible School programs and construction projects. Jared Barker, Rob Larimer, Catie Larimer, Bethany Kennedy and I were sent out from the Minnehaha Church of Christ in Vancouver Washington. Evan Albertson, Jonathan Haukaas, Emily Haukaas, Jonni Stone and Tyler Stone were sent out from the Longview Church of Christ. And Daniel Allen joined us from the Saint Helens Church of Christ.



We were in Jamaica from July 25 to August 8. I was really pleased with the way everyone worked together especially when the conditions the Top Hill Church of Christ building a roof in the morning and doing Vacation Bible School in the afternoon. The main water line was not working so we had to have a truck come and deliver water 3 times that week.



Emily Haukaas & Nicole

Everyone loved the church services. Our Christian brothers and sisters in Jamaica are very enthusiastic about praising God and enjoying fellowship together. During one of the evening services the power went out and we were in complete darkness. However, the congregation did not miss a beat. Everyone just continued to



Top Hill School Kids

sing as if nothing was wrong. You could hear the familiar sounds of different voices coming from different parts of the auditorium. I was no longer focused on the song leader or how I was singing. Suddenly I was aware of something I had missed. I couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by the presence of God in the praises of His people.

We made a lot of new friends in Jamaica. And God gave us some great blessings as we served others. But that night of worship at Top Hill was the highlight of my journey.

## REPORT ON THE CHURCHES

Donovan Bent reports that the work in Mandeville is going well. They have had some conversions and rededications. The church has a good spirit. They recently had a ministers' retreat there. Some of them have transportation and others don't, so they are working to pool resources together to help one another to get to their places of ministry each week.



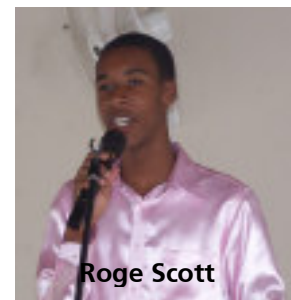
Nadeen Bent completed her chemotherapy and radiation for breast cancer, but after all these treatments there were new spots in her lungs. She had surgery to relieve fluid build-up and has had many complications, with the incision not healing. She has been in the hospital in Kingston now for over a month. This has been a very difficult time for this family. Donovan commutes from Top Hill to Mandeville for his ministry and has made many trips to Montego Bay for Nadeen's treatments, and now travels back and forth to Kingston. One of Nadeen's sisters has been helping with the care of the Bents' 4 boys. Please uphold them in your prayers.

The church in Mocho has a lot of children attending. There are many poor people living in the hills of Jamaica and more and more children are attending the services. Mervin gives them little gifts as he has the funds to do so, and he paid for 3 of the children to attend youth camp and provided transportation for them. Mervin is also working with a young man from Mocho who was baptized at camp 4 years ago and who will be taking some of the Bible college courses. When Mervin's brother left Jamaica after being laid off work at the bauxite mines, he sold Mervin his small car. However the engine was not very good, so at the present time Mervin is waiting for parts from Japan in order to repair it, which can sometimes take awhile. Keino Ward needs to have hip surgery, but is putting it off for the time being since she would have to go to Kingston for the surgery, and it would be difficult for Vena and Mervin to go back and forth.

Mineral Hts. church had a great VBS this summer with the work teams from the U.S. Over 100 children attended. There is a lot of opportunity for the church in Mineral Hts. since so many young families with children live in the scheme (housing area). There have been some baptisms and also 4 of their young people were baptized at youth camp which is held every year at Constant Springs, an area in Kingston. The



Scotts have moved into their home, though it is not finished, in order to keep vandals away. One of the young couples from church occupies a part of the upstairs of the church building to keep out intruders, another part of the upstairs is being used for a church office, and the rest of it will be used for visitors from the states. Sharon was in a minor car accident the end of July while going to Mandeville, but she only got a hard jerk. The brakes on the van were not good and the road was wet.

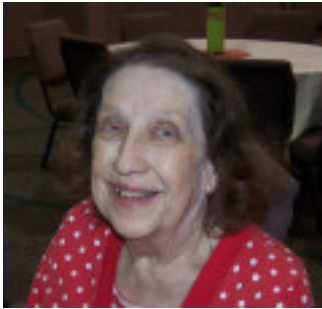


Ronnie Craig reports they had a profitable summer. Two young people who responded to the invitation last April when we were there at Macca Tree, have recently been baptized. Since that time there have been five more baptisms



and 3 commitments. Ronnie also worked with two work teams in May Pen and put on a new roof on the church building and the basic school. He taught one week at summer camp and had a one-week revival meeting at Macca Tree.

Each of the men continue to express their appreciation of our support for them in spite of the poor economy here in the U.S. Each of the preachers are trying to find some employment to supplement what we send them which has been half of what we used to send. Donovan's small farm is doing well this year, since there have been no major hurricanes to damage the crops but they have had some nice rains. Mervin is raising pigs and also doing some farming. Brother Ronnie is working toward being a tour guide. Roger Scott has closed down his pest control business because with the poor economy people are not spending their money on pest control. These men love the Lord and are working faithfully in His kingdom. Though our economy is bad, it is even worse in Jamaica so there are many poor and needy in the churches and they are unable to give much to the churches.



Please pray for Sarah McGuire, in Portland, OR, longtime supporter of this ministry who has terminal cancer.

Sarah

***Please continue to pray for this ministry. Any support is greatly appreciated and will be used wisely. The largest percentage of money that is given goes directly for the needs in Jamaica. Very little is spent on administration. We thank you!***