

American-Jamaican Link

Medical/Missionary Outreach

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2011 Campaign, Vacation Bible School & Clinic!

Linda Stevens

With renewed anticipation and expectancy I journeyed on my sixth missionary trip to Jamaica. The driving force that keeps me going year after year is a deep seated passion for missionary work, a love for the Lord, and his people. I feel as if I have an extended church family and I look forward to the fellowship.

I have seen the Vacation Bible School blossom from such humble beginnings with old donated Sunday school books to our current Jamaican published VBS literature. The classes keep growing yearly and I'm happy to report that we had 2 small children classes (beginners & primary), middle ages, and teenager classes. This year we had a record attendance of 120 on one day during VBS.

A new class was introduced this year called the "Late Class" which consisted of students who were late from the middle to teenage level for various reasons. After it started, many of the students came late intentionally just to be in the class; which became a motivating factor for learning. This was my class and I thoroughly enjoyed being with them as I saw stony heart walls melt as I shared the love of God and they returned it to me.

This year the beginners and primary classes made arts and craft throughout the entire week while the older children and adults enjoyed making them at the end of the week. Those waiting to be seen in the clinic by the medical team were



Back row: (left to right) Renee Theodore, Dr. Roger Theodore & Dr. Clyde Green
Middle row: Cheryl Green, Brenda Phelps, Freda Cowan, Clara Washington, Linda Stevens, Eva O'Neal & Carrie Mack. **Sign holders:** Keith & Tevin Green Those not pictured: Wilphemia Vincent, Rose Brooks, Ayanna Brooks & Wanda Massiah

favored with singing and testimony service conducted by the always energetic and lively Evang. Clara Washington.

The completion of VBS ended with a trip to the nearby park with most of the VBS students in attendance where we played volleyball, badminton, soccer, cricket and lots of board games. We lunched on delicious hot Beef Patties & Cocoa Bread. It was indeed enjoyable to see the AJL Missionary team along with the New Bethel Church Family actively participating in the games.

There was an awesome outpouring of God's spirit at the night revival or "campaign" on that week. It truly blessed my spirit to see how cultural and denominational barriers are thrown out when we came together during the services.

As always, I've come to enjoy time with Mother Green and Ms. Joy's taking in their seasoned words of spiritual council. Special thanks also go to Ms. Nellie and all her helpers in the canteen for feeding us and allowing us a "tab" for our water supply during the week. She had a large number teenagers working to with her learning the ropes and working towards a special treat from Ms. Cheryl & Dr. Green. Thanks also to Ayana & Rose for their great hospitality and to the entire New Bethel Zion Church family for receiving us with open arms.



AJL REFLECTIONS



It was a pleasure meeting you (Freda). People like you are needed on these mission trips...fun, dedicated, open to change and blessed to be able to help others, especially people who need medical care. I volunteered 10 years ago and loved it from day one. I continue to volunteer because of the needed attention to the children and their families. My attention has mainly focused on the needs of the children which include giving my time working with them in the schools or during Vacation Bible School. I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the Parottee or Black River area and visit schools and other clinics. My joy comes when I see children enjoying the small gifts I bring (either it be a pencil or notebook...anything, they love it) and truly APPRECIATE them. I continue to go because of the blessings I receive. I am fortunate enough to go with my husband who also gets such satisfaction out of helping patients who have been sick for a while and not able to afford to get local medical care. I think the challenge is being able to work outside of your comfort zone and yet feel good about completing such an awesome task...helping others no matter what! Also, over the past 10 years, my husband and I have formed new friendships with so many talented people who also were volunteers with AJL. Over the years, I have seen how the groups of volunteers have grown (use to be just Roger, Dr. Green, Mrs. Green and I) to several people who have used their talents to work with the youth, share God's love in the form of ministering in some form and give free medical care to the sick. Finally, these mission trips have served as a birthday and anniversary trip for us (July 22 is my birthday and wedding anniversary) and it's so nice being in Jamaica to bring in another year. **Renee Theodore**

I am truly blessed to be a part of the AJL Mission Vision. This was my second year and it was more greater this year than last year. I can't really put it into words but, I saw myself as one of Jesus's servants. Teaching the children about Jesus, the things they could do to be like Him, teaching them about their neighbors, and how to be born again.



The most rewarding thing was to see a 97 year old come alive after hearing the word of God, pray, and singing. When I say "come alive" I mean she was laying down like there was little life left. Jesus began to move and she sit up and started to clap her hands and join in with the singing. God is good. Last but not least, I have found wonderful brothers and sisters in Jamaica. I will send pictures as soon as I can. God bless. **Missionary Carrie Mack**

I enjoyed the Jamaican mission trip and I thank GOD for opening that door in my spiritual walk with him. It caused a breaking/birthing of something wonderful within me. It strengthened my faith, causing me to have a tighter grip on him that I refuse to let go. It was a privilege and an honor to be a part of God's work. I thank God for the experience and the knowledge that I obtained through VBS. I thank him for empowering me to witness/encourage both the young and the old. I think him for the medical clinic, for people came from both near and far to visit the clinic and because they came they were included in the VBS. I thank God for the "REVIVAL SERVICES" that were going on each night with the theme "WAKE UP" taken from Luke 15:17. God took me to a far country and awoken me to see him for who he is in me and who I am in him. It is with enthusiasm that I look forward to next year's trip. A special thanks to God for touching the hearts of those who supplied donations, contributions, etc. May God add a special blessing upon them in which they will not have room to receive...In Jesus name. **Missionary Eva O'Neal**



This year marked a turning point in my travel arrangements because I have a travel buddy. Because of a trip Dr. Green & wife Cheryl made through Winston-Salem, NC on last year was introduced to my newest North Carolina friends; Nurse Practioneer, Freda Cowan and Dr. Ginny Wright. Freda flew out with me and Ginny joined us in Montego Bay on the weekend. Now, for those who might not know it, anytime you're with Freda there is never a dull moment.

We arrived Saturday, July 2nd to the welcoming tropical sun of Jamaica and the hugs and laughter of the rest of the team (Linda Stevens, Carrie Mack, Eva O'Neal and newest team member, Clara Washington). Though Cheryl & Dr. Green missed their flight, they made sure of our travel arrangements from Montego Bay to St. Elizabeth. Everyone was famished but were able to hold up until we arrived at one of our favorite food stops along the way. After Ayanna & "T" (Wilphemia Vincent) bargained for our lunch we were on our way. The Idler's Rest staff had dinner ready shortly upon our arrival and the hot shower was just what we needed to settle us in for the night.

We rose early for church where Evang. Joy Finikin taught Sunday school that morning and Pastor Victoria Green brought the Sunday morning message. The worship service is always filled with the joyful sound of music and the high praise of the worshippers.

Monday brought quiet meditation for some while many of us took a morning stroll on the beach in search of sea shells and a chance to meet the local fishermen. The ever enthusiastic Dr. Theodore joined us for breakfast after his morning jog. Before long we it was time to head to New Bethel Zion for the first day of Clinic and VBS.





Mother Green,
AJL-Visionary



The team prepares to leave
for home visitations



Alecia Austin,
Valedictorian



VBS lunch time



Dr. Green & Nurse
Practitioner, Freda Cowan



Brenda and her
Jamaican babies



Thanks to the Franklin Family & Covenant Academy for their
donation of caps & gowns



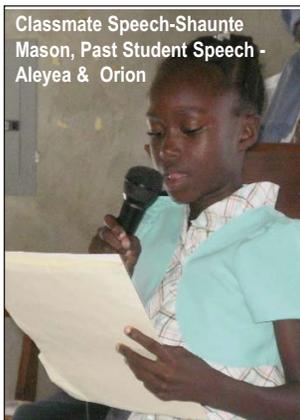
Cousins sharing a special
moment



Renee Theodore served as the 2011 speaker
during New Zion Prep School Graduation



Classmate Speech-Shaunte
Mason, Past Student Speech -
Aleyea & Orion



Kenute Gayle, President of New Bethel Zion
School, Chairperson, Mr. James Green



Dr. Theodore shares a dance
with Mother Green





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Patients were waiting on the doctors' and had their medical needs taken care shortly thereafter. I think the children were as excited as we were to see them and that same excitement greeted us each day of the week.

I think Renee Theodore had the "Midas Touch" as well as a suitcase of goodies that attracted the preschoolers like bees to honey. It was my first time meeting the Theodore's but I was deeply impressed by their genuine and heartfelt commitment to AJL and the St. Elizabeth community as a whole.

First timer Evang. Clara Washington was excited about starting the street ministry and greeted all she came in contact with an encouraging word from God and a heartfelt invitation to join us in the nightly services. She was like a burst of sunshine everyday.

We even got a change to do home visitations. It was so rewarding to see the joy that came across the elderly faces when we spent time sharing words and songs of encouragement.

Our entire week was in St. Elizabeth and it allowed us a change to see the graduation and participate in the Saturday night fun activities. As we prepared to leave on Sunday, Mother Green brought us some special island treats to take home and a prayer of protection for our journey home. **Brenda Phelps**

WHO ARE WE: American Jamaican Link 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 has a desire to help those in developing countries from Jamaica to Africa can do so through AJL. Please consider becoming a partner or sponsor in helping to build the lives of those in need.

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, Parottee, 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.

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