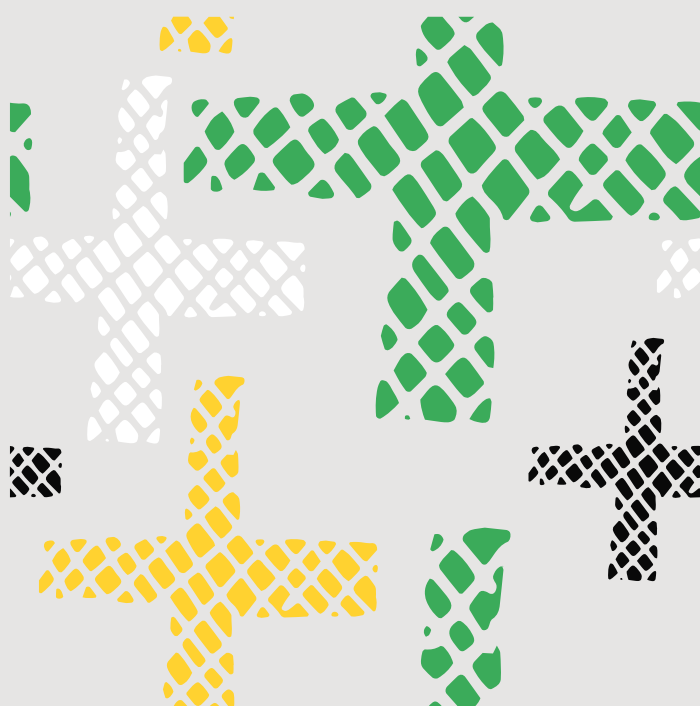


JULY 2021



JAMAICA *Exploratory* MISSION TRIP

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IS THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS.



HENRY MARTYN

God AT WORK



Brenda Holmes

There were two primary missions accomplished during this exploratory mission trip – support of the Granville Child Care Facility (GCCF) Summer Camp 2021 and M.O.D.E. Alliance Pastors Conference.

On Sunday, the Jamaica Mission Team worshipped with one of the local congregations with whom we are in relationship and Pastor Kurtran was asked to give remarks. The team then met with the Granville administrators for a late lunch/early dinner at a local restaurant. It was our first in person meeting in over 18 months. We reviewed last minute plans and worked out the logistics for exchanging materials for the camp.

The work for Granville

Summer Camp 2021 actually began several months prior to the actual activity. The One Community Church Outreach Mission includes a Granville team which has been working with Granville administrators for several years. Having established trusting relationships, the OCC Granville team collaborated with the Granville administrators to plan the Granville Summer Camp 2021. The theme of the camp was “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” (Psalm 139:14).

The OCC Granville Team supported the camp materially as well as through leadership and encouragement. The OCC Jamaica Missions Team carried 11 tents and 30

sleeping bags for the girls to have an outside camping experience. Due to rain, they were not able to sleep outside while we were there, but they would before the camp ended. Each girl received a lanyard with their names and a bag with their team colors (red, yellow and purple) that included journals. Each OCC Granville Team member led one of the three groups through various activities and spoke with each group of girls on the subjects of sexuality, self-esteem and character as viewed from a spiritual perspective. The sessions were well received by the girls. Each team designed a flag which was carried at the end of the obstacle course on the next day. Each station of the course had encouraging scripture verses and challenging tasks which required teamwork. Each team learned valuable lessons

throughout the day.

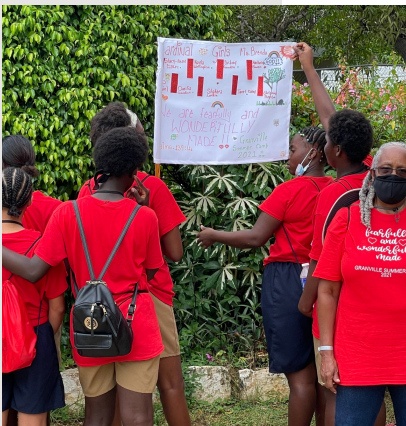
Before leaving we were able to see the renovations that are being done to the dormitories and to the classrooms. There are still struggles with Internet access and having enough computers and books for the learning centers. It was heartwarming to see the growth in the girls (not the same girls from prior years) and the positive reinforcements from the staff. Their spiritual growth was most impressive including their knowledge of the Bible and their trust in God. Prior to our departure, the Granville administrators brought the team captains to present gifts and thank you cards (hand written) for the OCC Granville Team leaders.

The M.O.D.E. Alliance Pastors Conference was also a successful mission. Pastor Kurtran gathered 12 local pastors to sit and discuss collaboration and partnerships in order to form an alliance to reach outside of their individual congregations to reach and serve their local communities. He shared ways that OCC became a “community church.” He posed the question – “If your

church were to disappear today would your community even notice?” We are called to take the church to the world and the world to the church.

At the end of the conference, an alliance was formed, the scope of the alliance was established, a steering committee was formed and the first meeting date was agreed upon (via Zoom).

God is truly at work through the OCC Mission Team. The harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few. Though it is unlikely that we can send a mission team out before Spring 2022, we will continue to utilize the tools God has made available to continue the work in His vineyard.



*...I have made
you a **light** for
the Gentiles.
that you may
bring salvation to
the ends of the
earth.
- Acts 13:47*

Young Ladies SHOW STRONG FAITH

Brenda Holmes

During our OCC Mission Trip to Granville Child Care Facility (GCCF), I led three sessions on self-esteem. We started each session with questions about how each girl felt. I was touched by all the girls who looked at a picture of a sprouting plant and recognized a new creation. This led us into a discussion about being a new creature in Christ.



I was especially impressed with the young lady who was able to tell the story of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. This led us to a discussion of how people treated Paul following his conversion. These young ladies knew that ridicule and rejection could be overcome through God's strength. They concurred that uncertainty and fear can only be overcome by faith in God because God never leaves them.

Asked how often they pray to God, most said every day. When preparing to close one of the sessions, one young lady asked if she could pray us out. It was such a touching prayer, it gave me chills to hear the earnestness and sincerity of a prayer of praise, thanksgiving and supplication. God is definitely at work in Granville Child Care Facility and it's clear that they see and receive God's love from the OCC Granville Mission Team.

snapshots OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE

Sonja Gray

PART I

I'm always amazed of visits to Grandville Place of Safety Girls Home. This current visit was one that showed the faithfulness of God and His unique love for these young ladies that manifested such a humbling experience.

These young ladies come from a severe background of mental illness, trauma, rejection, and abuse. Their conquering spirit of teamwork and pride of winning and not losing in anything including life was so encouraging. Their actions represented their Summer Camp theme: "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" - We are in this together!

I witnessed this from teaching the Summer Camp devotion to many phases of the obstacle course, even when they thought they were defeated at certain levels of the obstacle and came out VICTORIOUS.

Here is a snapshot of the experiences during that week as a result of the engagement of the young ladies:

- The love and hope of cheering and encouraging their friends when they get to go home and leave Granville for good AND they stay behind waiting their turn to be next or if at all.
- The accountability of team work being the only way they would win on the obstacle course.
- The competitive spirit to WIN and not be defeated in spite of all their obstacles.



Although we thought we were coming to encourage and support Granville, I was reminded of this scripture: "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) They had "convicting" joy and hope in their current situation and I was humbled and encouraged instead.

PART II

Time to go home and my mission was complete so I thought. Not according to God. I was waiting for transportation, which was running behind that placed me in an uncomfortable emotion getting to the airport. When a driver arrived and we were on our way to the airport I began to talk to him, just having general conversation. Because we had just completed an awesome pastoral summit, I asked him

where he attended church. I was going to send him to one of the pastors' churches I had just met.

The Lord had a different plan. The young man told me he didn't go to church and although he wanted to go to church, he just could not explain to me why he had not. Then he asked me "Why did I ask him about church?" He shared with me that he had to turn around and come get me and take me to the airport. That's when I knew I was on assignment again!

We began to share and talk more in detail about his life. Well, halfway to the airport, I walked him through the plan of salvation AND he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. It was such a sweet moment, the Lord did it again!!!! Jamaica for the week of July 26-July 30, this assignment was finished until we meet again soon to come.





JAMAICA
JULY 2021