

VITAL SIGNS

Summer 2007

PARTNERS AND FELLOW WORKERS

As for Titus, he is my **partner and fellow worker** among you. – 2 Corinthians 8:23

Anyone familiar with Paul's missionary career will know about the "fellow-ness" that characterized his ministry. He spoke of fellow citizens, fellow heirs, fellow prisoners, fellow servants, and fellow soldiers. Speaking of Titus in 2 Cor. 8, the Apostle clarifies partnership qualities that also instruct fellow workers for Jamaica.

1. **Fellow Workers Share the Same Concerns.** Titus had the same heart for the church in Corinth as did Paul (2 Cor. 8:16). Likewise, if we are really co-workers with God, we share His heartbreaks. This is because this God who "so loved the world" will only beget children who are moved by that same kind of love.

2. **Fellow Workers Take Initiative.** Titus went to Corinth "of his own accord" (8:17b). Responsible initiative requires accurate information. Ask, "What can I do?" That's a start. But then do what you already know to do. When it comes to mission needs, the TEAMS approach has always been to make the need known and then trust God to meet it. We try to supply good information, trust God to touch minds and hearts, and believe that prayerful initiative will follow.

3. **Fellow Workers Accept Exhortation.** Titus wasn't offended when the need was pointed out (8:17a). Instead, he acted. *When the impulse to assist the [needy] is awakened within you, you will not be embarrassed to ask for help-ers. You will find all who are Christian, not merely in name but also in reality, vying for the high honor of assisting them.* (Abraham Kuyper). Real Christians who work together constantly fan the flames of passion for world needs.

4. **Fellow Workers Finish What They Start.** Paul commended Titus, saying that, "As he had begun, so he would also complete this grace" (8:6). TEAMS faces different issues, of course, but the need is still there for steadfast fellow workers who will finish the job, no matter what.



Kevin, Wisdom & Ray with new Bibles

HAVE THE SAME HEART

TEAMS Fellow Workers

- Pray
- Support financially
- Donate medicines
- Join J-Teams
- Donate building tools
- Provide evangelism materials
- Gather, prepare, pack meds & supplies
- Adopt a missionary
- Spread the word

What is your dream? Where will it take you? Is Jamaica in that dream?

TEAMS for Medical Missions is made up of those with a vision for bringing Jamaicans to obedient faith in Jesus Christ.

As we pray across that land, we dream of a day when strong churches are reaching their communities and beyond.

For this task we need fellow workers; those whose like-minded dream becomes passion – passion that turns vision into reality.

Just imagine!



May J-Team Fellow Workers

BE MOVED TO ACT



▲ Gospel Pencil-Makers & Kids Who Received Them ▼

This newsletter could be hazardous to your comfort zone!

Some things move us from what is familiar and comfortable. We just have to do something.

About 30 AWANA Club and Junior Church children in Pennsylvania found out that J-Teams present the Gospel in the schools. They took initiative and made over 1000 "Gospel Pencils" with colored beads that told the story of salvation.

A church in Virginia learned of Mr. Green's desperate need for a place to live. They then gave the entire amount needed to make it happen.

This is just like Titus. When he learned the facts, he stepped up and set an example of energetic initiative (2 Cor. 8:17).

That's what fellow workers do!



From This ▲ To This ▼



Jamaica ministries deficit ~ \$3,000 per month ~ PRAY, and if you are able, please HELP.

DO EVEN MORE



How did it happen that in the past five years . . .
 • *Patient load has doubled – from 350 to over 725 a trip?*
 • *Prescriptions dispensed have tripled – from 490 to over 1,500 a trip?*

It happened as God has brought together fellow workers who make a start but then are not afraid to look for ways to do even more. Examples:

May Medical Team – Four Returnees!

- A person comes on a J-Team and then does more by recruiting others.
- Some come on their first J-Team and then find a way to return at least annually
- Builders are sent by a local church which then catches a vision for doing more. Besides sending other builders, the church raises funds for the house project.
- Many let us know that they will pray for us but then they do even more as they write notes of encouragement, volunteer, gather supplies, and share financially.

Do we dare ask for more? We do, because we are fellow workers. The eagerness of so many encourages us to ask for more – more of ourselves and more of them.



Sister Lou & Nurse Carolyn

FINISH FAITHFULLY

The vision of TEAMS for Medical Missions is for . . .

Healing the Body ~ Making Disciples ~ Strengthening the Church.

Originally, TEAMS saw physical need and sought to draw people to Him by meeting that need. Today, it is a means of disciple making and church strengthening.

But with a broader vision and faster growth comes big challenges. Yet TEAMS did not begin with a Plan B in mind – that when it got too much for us we would just back away. Nor have you fellow workers joined us with that thought.

A missionary colleague once challenged me: “When faced with the overwhelming needs of lost people, don’t throw up your hands. Roll up your sleeves.”

That sounds a lot like 1 Corinthians 15:58 – *Steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* Let us claim this for ourselves and by His grace, finish what we started.



Jamaica Pastors

HEARTBEAT

Ray Shive



I wrote most of this newsletter, so your stethoscope has surely picked up my heartbeat. *I give thanks for your partnership in the gospel* (Phil. 1:3, 5). I truly love this “fellow-ness” that we have!

But I want more of it! Closer ties for a stronger ministry; just as Paul desired his Philippian coworkers to be *standing firm in one spirit, with one mind*, as they worked side by side (1:27).

I want to be clear – no euphemisms. **I am talking about prayer, people, and money.** Without a significant increase in all three, TEAMS’ future is limited. You know that I do not accept that. And I know many of you enough to know that you don’t either. So, here is what we need:

- **Intercessors.** If you commit to pray regularly, we will be sure that you have what you need to be most effective. Let us know.
- At least one more **career missionary couple** for Jamaica – more would be better. And one **career missionary** to serve in Jamaica from the home office in Pennsylvania. Details available on all of these. Don’t delay. Please ask.
- And **money.** Promises from fellow workers of \$3,000 per month are needed to keep pace with current ministries.

Just in case you somehow missed it – **we consider you our fellow worker.** We are trusting God and then looking to you for these.

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A Quarterly Update from TEAMS for Medical Missions

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