

## **Partnership Between Riverside United Church, Ottawa, and Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica.**

The partnership between the two churches was set up formally in 2004, in order to facilitate better communication. I had lived in Jamaica from 1990 – 2003, during which time I, along with the minister of Providence and some hard-working volunteers, started the Home Visitation and Nursing Programme. When I returned to Canada in 2003, the Nursing Programme had been serving people since 1992, and I wished to raise funds here in Ottawa to assist the work there. Jamaica Night is our main fundraiser each year, and our first event was in 2004. We have held a successful event each year. Now, in 2020, we are in a pandemic, so we will have a virtual Jamaica Night, Jamaica Night Goes Virtual, Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 6.00 P.M. More information about it will follow soon.

We support the Home Visitation and Nursing Programme at Providence Church, and the Mission House Basic School in Gordon Town, Jamaica. Both of these are part of the outreach work of Providence Church, and the funds we raise are divided equally between the two. Funds are sent about twice a year. We receive reports from them on a regular basis, both narrative and financial. The school and the Nursing Programme are supported also by the churches in Jamaica – Gordon Town Methodist Church and Providence Church.

Home Visitation and Nursing Programme – Services - Home visits, medical checks (blood pressure, blood glucose tests, etc.), assistance given in paying for prescription medications and diagnostic tests. The requests for assistance in paying for medications and diagnostic tests have increased since the start of the pandemic. Medical equipment is given out on loan as needed. Some supplies are provided, and health

education and counseling are ongoing. Home visits are made by the nurse and also by volunteers. This has been stopped during the pandemic, but contacts are made by phone. Assistance with groceries continues. Groceries are supplied to a group of people twice a month: now more than 190 people per month. This program continues to provide an important service to people in several communities in Kingston and St. Andrew. Now, more than ever, people are in need of its services, and it is greatly appreciated.

The Mission House Methodist Basic School started the year in 2019 with 51 students, boys and girls, and 5 teachers, and the principal, Kyc-Ann Scott. It is certified by the Early Childhood Commission. The children are involved in various classes and activities, including classes in the computer. Although the pandemic caused the school to close for a short while, now they continue using different methods. The children are not in school, and many homes do not have computers. They can't afford it. So, on Monday each week, families are supplied with packages containing lessons and activities for the week, to be undertaken at home. They have 49 pupils at present. The principal and teachers are working hard to keep the school going.

Financial Report – Proceeds (net), at Jamaica Night, 2019, totaled \$5,532.00. In December, 2019, funds totaling \$5,752.00 were sent to Providence Methodist Church. In March, 2020, donations for the work in Jamaica, received at Riverside Church, totaled \$1,479.30, and in July this year the amount sent to Jamaica was \$1,649.30.

If you wish to make a donation, please write a cheque payable to Riverside United Church, or send a donation online, always indicating that the funds are for outreach work in Jamaica. The address of the church – Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, ON,

K1V8N8. A receipt for income tax will be sent to you. Jamaicans are very grateful for our support. Thank you very much.

Marie Hackett

September, 2020