

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

This working relationship between the two churches and cultures has continued each year since 2004. Funds are raised by Riverside United Church and Jamaicans in Ottawa, and are sent to Providence Church. The funds are divided equally between the Nursing Programme at Providence and the Mission House Basic School in Gordon Town. We receive regular reports from Jamaica about the work.

The partnership has been most rewarding, and occasionally the two congregations have worshipped together via ZOOM. Jamaicans in Ottawa have continually worked with us in fundraising and in guiding and managing the partnership. It has been a wonderful relationship.

On Sunday, October 23, 2022, starting at 6.15 P.M., our 19th Jamaica Night, Jamaica Night 2022 Goes Virtual, will be live-streamed on You Tube. There will also be a watch party at the church for those wishing to view the video there. This is our main fundraiser for the projects in Jamaica.

The restrictions are gradually being lifted in Jamaica, after the pandemic. The Home Visitation & Nursing Programme activities are increasing. Visiting by the nurse, Althea Townsend, to people in their homes has resumed, and people are grateful for the help and support. Medical checks are done (blood pressure, glucose testing, etc.). Other services: assistance in getting prescription medications, and groceries are given to needy people on a regular basis. Due to lack of affordable insurance, assistance with costs of doctor and hospital bills, clinical tests and treatment is provided when necessary. Also, medical equipment is given on loan when needed, and medical supplies are given to those needing them. The Nursing Programme serves people in

the community, as well as members of Providence Church. It has been giving service to people since 1992.

The Mission House Basic School in Gordon Town has re-opened with 52 pupils, and all four teachers and the principal, Kyc-Ann Scott, are back. During the pandemic pupils and teachers and parents struggled with online learning, and the youngest children especially were affected by this. So the situation is much better now that the school is fully re-opened. Social events, field trips, and special days are among the activities that have resumed. Gordon Town Methodist Church and the Mission House Basic School are a part of the Providence Circuit. The school also gets some assistance from community groups.

Report of funds raised in 2021.

Proceeds from Jamaica Night 2021 Goes Virtual – Can.\$5,232.49. This was sent to Providence Methodist Church in U.S. dollars, U.S.\$3,983.32.

The pandemic has adversely affected most countries, including Jamaica. Poverty is a major problem. The outreach work we support is making a difference. If you wish to donate, please send a cheque payable to Riverside United Church, and indicate on the cheque that the funds are for outreach work in Jamaica. Send to Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1V8N8. Donations can also be sent online to the Riverside United Church website. A receipt for income tax will be sent to you.

Thank you for your interest and generosity. People in Jamaica are very grateful for our continuing support.

Marie Hackett

October, 2022

