

We are excited about the opportunity God has given us for our first International Mission Trip ! Here is our tentative schedule and we'll be updating the site regularly with new information. We should arrive in Jamaica on Saturday, June 14th. On Sunday, June 15 we will be worshipping in a local church. During the afternoon we will be visiting an orphanage before attending an evening worship service. On Monday, June 16th thru Thursday, June 19th we will conduct Chapel Services in local schools from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. From 9:00 am until noon will be our construction period. In the afternoon we will be visiting Nursing Homes, and in the evening we will conduct a Vacation Bible School in a local church. Friday, June 20th will be a catch up day if necessary. Otherwise we'll be visiting different areas and recovering from the week's work. Saturday, June 21st we will be traveling back. On Sunday, June 22nd during our evening service we will be sharing our experiences and have a fellowship afterwards.

Sunday, June 15th - Hello from sunny and humid Jamaica. It is late Sunday night and we are getting ready to start the main part of our work tomorrow.

Saturday saw us take 18 and a half hours to make a 2 and a half hour flight. But you know what? God is good and we arrived safely. Sunday we had the tremendous opportunity to worship with the fine people of The Liberty Baptist Church. We arrived at 10 am and had already missed the first hour of the service. At 12:30 PM the service was over and we enjoyed a snack of tuna fish sandwiches, punch and cake. After that we traveled up to Bamboo and ate a home cooked meal of jerk chicken, rice and beans, potato salad, and roasted goat. Everything was very good. We were able to rest some this afternoon before walking to a local restaurant for dinner. Our evening consisted of planning for tomorrow and praying for one another.

Tuesday, June 17th - Tuesday was another beautiful day here in Jamaica. We had a good day of working at the camp in Bamboo and we finally got to begin our Bible Club today at Ochos Rios Gospel Chapel. Our turn out was lower than expected but we think this will change tomorrow because some of us are going to the Ochos Rios Primary School to spend time with the kids.

Wednesday, June 18th - What a wonderful Wednesday in Jamaica. Some of the guys went up early to Bamboo and start work on the tables. The objective was to build as many as possible by supper time. The rest of us were going to focus on the Bible Club at Ochos Rios Gospel Chapel.

Several of us went to the Ochos Rios Primary School to personally invite the kids. When we arrived we were greeted with some of the biggest smiles you have ever seen! The kids seemed to be excited to see us and we were excited to see them. We got to invite several of the students.

When Bible Club began we were overjoyed to find that our number had tripled today! Needless to say, it was a big day at the Bible Club. All the new kids got a chance to catch-up with the others and I even got to play soccer with the boys. I am more suited for American football than futbol.

After the Bible Club we went back to the hotel to wait on the guys to return. When they got back we learned that they had used all the lumber that was provided. We have built 6 tables and repaired 4 that were already there.

Supper tonight was white rice and curry chicken with a mixture of local vegetables. It was another good day.

Thursday, June 19th - Thursday in Jamaica saw us put the wraps on the physical aspect of our trip. The construction crew went up to Bamboo one last time to construct some benches with the left over lumber from the tables. They worked all morning and returned to Ochos about noon.

After lunch we all went to the church for our last afternoon of Bible Club. Again, God blessed us by sending ten more children than we had yesterday. There were even some adults passing by that stopped in to see what we were doing and they got to make a t-shirt and hear the Gospel.

The children were a joy again today. When we arrived there were about ten to fifteen waiting on us. They rushed up to us and gave us all hugs and big smiles. It was hard to tell them goodbye so we just said, "see you later", instead. They all left with some candy, a toy, a bunch of crafts, and a knowledge of who Jesus is and what He did for them. Tomorrow is our "tourist" day but we plan to work in some ministry as well. After a trip to Dunn's River Falls several of us will visit a local nursing home. If there is time, we will then do some shopping before one last supper on the beach.

Friday, June 20th - Well, it's hard to believe that our first international mission trip is all but over. It has been challenging at times but I fully believe that all of the things that we may have thought were problems, God saw them a teaching opportunity.

Today we saw went to Dunn's River Falls. It is a beautiful river that cascades down the mountain right into the ocean. It is one of those sights that make you stop and say, "Way to go God!"

The afternoon was spent walking the streets, shopping, and of course, eating. At 4:00 PM we traveled back up to Bamboo for our final meal with the CLM staff. We had fried fish, meatballs, bread fruit, potato salad, and pineapple upside-down cake with orange sherbert.

Tomorrow we will head to the Montego Bay airport at 10:45 AM and catch a 4:40 PM flight to Atlanta. We are scheduled to get to Atlanta at 8:30 PM where we will again spend the night and head home Sunday morning.

Thank you for all your prayer support during this week. We look forward to sharing with you Sunday night during the service.