

Appendix J Mutual Mission Report

Here is the contents of an email from the Cuba Partners Network (CPN) that was forwarded by Diane Watkins.

The Container has arrived!

Several months ago, CPN received a request from the IPRC for a container of commodities to be shipped to Cuba. CPN members Laura St. Clair (*coordinator*), Rev. John Potter (*CPN Co-convener*), Barbara D'Andrea (*Program Committee*), and Rev. Valdir França (*PC(USA) Regional Coordinator for Latin America*) served on the CPN Cuba Container Committee, and set to work on logistics.

Rev. Izett Samá (*General Secretary, IPRC Havana Presbytery*) was designated by the IPRC as coordinator in Cuba and a humanitarian aid cargo management company, *Missionary Expeditors*, was contracted to help us navigate the world of international shipping.

After countless WhatsApp meetings with the IPRC, a list of items to ship, as well as a budget for the items, was approved. A container was assembled which included rice, beans, powdered milk, coffee, soap, detergent and syringes.

Last month, after delays due to both hurricanes and red tape, our container was shipped from the port of New Orleans to the port of Mariel in western Cuba.

We are overjoyed to share that the container was recently received by the IPRC and they have begun distribution to presbyteries and churches!

Please click below for a special message of gratitude from the IPRC
with photos of supplies being delivered and received:

Link to Video

"If Jesus says yes, who says no?"

*Music: ""When Jesus Says Yes, Nobody Can Say No""
Nigerian praise music performed live by Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child.*

For additional information, please contact Laura St. Clair:

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Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission

Report to St. Augustine Mutual Mission by Shernett Smith, Director, January 21, 2022

On behalf of the JEMM, I greet you well and pray God's blessings on you all during 2022 and always. We are grateful to God for His enabling grace during the year 2021 and for the continued partnership of SAMM and JEMM in the mission of Christ. The year 2021, as you would imagine, was a challenging period as we experienced heightened positive cases of the COVID-19 Virus, many restrictions and lockdowns. However, I am happy to report on the following:

The Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis to assess the operations of JEMM and keep abreast of the social happenings in Jamaica. There have also been monthly meetings held on the 4th Monday of each month between the JEMM/SAMM Leadership.

Care Packages for People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the economic devastation now being faced by PLHIV, the JEMM/SAMM mission is driving a programme to provide care packages for such persons, generally, but specifically in the parish of St. Thomas. The beneficiaries of this programme are verified through the social workers at the St. Thomas Health Department in the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA). The HIV treatment site at the St. Thomas Health Department, serves approximately 350 active Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). However, this initiative seeks to highlight the needs of 50 of these PLHIV providing them with a monthly care package of food, toiletries and when needed, furniture. The approximate amount for each person is J\$8,000, is equivalent to US\$53.33 per month.

These PLHIV fall in the category of:

- Single mothers
- Extended family settings with the PLHIV being the sole bread winner
- Men who live alone or with families but they care for themselves
- The elderly
- Person with high viral loads/support group members
- Stable clients who are unemployable

During the period, October – December, we have been able to gather approximately 300lbs of rice and 200lbs peas donated by Food for the Poor, which are sent to the social workers who package and distribute these items to the clients when they visit the clinics for their appointments.

COVID-19 Conversations - 2021

When COVID -19 vaccinations became available, there was much hesitancy to be inoculated, even among church members. As, such JEMM organized a virtual session to look at the following:

“Vaccine Facts – Things You Need To Know To Make An Informed Decision”

“A Theological Response To COVID – 19 and Vaccine”

This session also included testimonials from Rev. Jermaine Gibson who had COVID-19 as well as Mr. Robert Bell who had the vaccine.

While COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all areas of life, the church too has been impacted. It is also evident that the church as we know it has changed and we may not return to what existed before. This saw the birth of the following conversation: “Envisioning the Church in the post pandemic period”.

The sessions looked at the following perspectives:

- The Pastoral Perspective
- The Administrative Perspective
- The Laity Perspective
- The Millennial Perspective

We give God thanks for the success of both sessions. The next session will explore “*Mental Health and strategies to implement & remain healthy.*”

Agricultural Programme

Task Force Restructure

The Agricultural Task Force has been revamped to align with the objectives of the Castor Project. As such members now include: Project Officers, Agronomists, Marketers.

Castor Bean Project (See photos on the next page)

COVID 19 has caused:

- Many to lose their jobs
- Increased poverty
- Economic crisis

JEMM embarked on the Castor Project to help unemployed men and women to grow and sell castor beans to alleviate poverty and ultimately to reduce crime and violence.

The grant of US\$10,400.00 from SAMM has, by the way of a revolving loan scheme, helped the farmers with fertilizer, fungicide and pesticide to reduce loss of plants and then paid the farmers for the beans they grow.

To date we have in storage 400lbs. of beans in hand, which were received from two farmers in Mt. Gracious, Portland. They both reported experiencing challenges owing to bad weather and lack of fungicides and pesticides.

11.9 acres are in the preparation stage to plant beans by March 30, 2022.

Processing Plant

Plans are on the way for the establishment of a processing plant to extract oil from the beans. We are in dialogue with the United Church In Jamaica and the Cayman Islands to allow JEMM to erect a container on one of its properties located at 16 Ransford Avenue in Kingston.

The container has been purchased at a cost of US\$2,333.33. Three (3) estimates are being solicited for repairs and retrofitting.

JEMM anticipates that the surplus from the processing will be used to further other mission projects such as:

- Medical and Dental
- Youth Exchanges
- Capacity Building Workshops to Farmers
- Violence Mitigation through Counselling in Schools

We continue our appeal for funding to enable us to finance this important project.

Expenditure for soil testing, fertilizer, pesticides, fungicides per acre:

Soil Testing.....US\$ 13.33

Fungicides, pesticides, fertilizer.....US\$395.72

US\$409.05

Therefore, US\$100 would cover approximately a quarter of an acre.

The following indicates the pay out to farmers per acre:

1 acre of castor beans yields.....A minimum of 1200lbs of beans

Payout to farmer per lb.US\$2.00

Approximate Payout per acre.....1200lbs x US2 = US\$2,400.

Therefore, US\$100 can cover50lbs beans (i.e. \$100/\$2)



Some of the lost plants to which no pesticide or fungicide was applied.



Beans being collected from farmers



Images showing beans being dried for dehulling



Image depicting 40ft. container purchased.

Appreciation

2019 marked the 40th Anniversary of this noble organization and part of our planned activities was to show appreciation to those who have laboured long and hard over the years. The pandemic brought our plans to a halt. However, we believe that we should still find opportunities to say thank you, mindful that our organization would not be here without the commitment, hard-work and sacrifice of dedicated servants.

On December 5, 2021, Mrs. Barbara Mighty was presented with a gift basket by Mrs. Smith. For over 20 years, Mrs. Mighty served JEMM/SAMM in the organizing of Youth and Adult Exchanges as well as Fund Raising.

On January 16, 2022, Mrs. Carter was presented with a plaque and gift basket by Chairman, Rev. Jermaine Gibson, for her contribution of over 30 years to the development of JEMM/SAMM.

Mrs. Carter:

- Served as Camp Leader for the Youth Exchange Programme
- Faithfully served the Awareness Task Force, the body that organizes the Youth and Adult Exchanges
- A long-standing member of the JEMM Executive
- A member of the Jamaica Ecumenical Development & Relief Agency Ltd. (JEDRA), the relief and development arm of JEMM.



Mrs. Sherrett Smith with Mrs. Mighty



Mrs. Carter with Rev. Jermaine Gibson

Respectfully Submitted By:
Mrs. Shernett Smith
DIRECTOR