

He must increase, but I must decrease.
John 3:30

Blessings

the quarterly newsletter of Project Increase
a ministry to Jamaica

Autumn
2004
Volume 15, Issue 3

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Hurricane Ivan slams Jamaica

The following messages are a collection of storm reports sent to Project Increase from friends and ministries on the island.

Brother Bob Holland
New Beginnings International Training Centers
Ramble, Jamaica

Hurricane Ivan arrived almost 16 years to the day after Hurricane Gilbert. Ivan is being nicknamed "Terrible." Well, we give testimony that Gilbert was "Infamously Terrible" by comparison.

Before I give you a report on how New Beginnings came through Ivan, I would like to give praise and glory to our Lord Jesus. We all know that the earth is under a curse, but we also know that God has given His people authority over the earth and all creation. Therefore, we can speak to the winds and seas and cause them to change direction. That is exactly what we did and asked all our friends to do. The next thing we see is that Ivan the Terrible took a Holy Ghost wobble to the Southwest, traveling due West until he passed by the island. The dangerous eye never came on shore.

We did have some damage both at the ministry property (school building and training center) and our residence, Holland House. We had some concrete block walls blown down, a 4,800 pound water tank literally picked up off a roof and tossed to the ground, the shingles stripped off our roof, and a 22 cu. ft. freezer was damaged. In addition, this experience has made it clear that we need a second generator so we can have one at each location.

We especially want to thank all of you who prayed. The prayers of the righteous are both

powerful and effective. Now, we would really appreciate your financial help. If you are able, please email me and let me know.

Michelle Robinette
Robin's Nest
Montego Bay

We are Praising God for His hand on us in Jamaica. The forecasters cannot figure out what stopped the eye of the hurricane as it turned out and away from the island again and again, but we believe it was His hand, literally.

We got some flooding in a back room and tool and laundry area. We were able to throw enough towels on it again and again to contain it. All our beautiful children (30 in all, from 2 months up to 8 years) came out in great shape. We made a game out of putting the mattresses on the floors and pretending we were camping out. Even the 2-year-olds thought that was fun. One 7-year-old boy said to another little one next to him: "Don't

worry - God never sleeps; He must have that stay awake in-some-knees disease." (Insomnia) Kids!

We had no power or water for a long time, but we have everything back and working now. In fact, we had power Sunday evening and people up the hill from us still do not have it, four days later. We are grateful beyond measure for how

God cared for us. None of our staff was able to get here until Monday. Here is what God arranged for us: One teenaged girl had wanted to come and help for 2 weeks, so she was here. One woman and myself live at the Nest. A husband and wife (retired teachers of 35 years each) came unexpectedly. They finished a project they were doing with



Kingston woman surveys what's left of her home after Hurricane Ivan. (Florida Sun-Sentinel)

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Prayer Requests

Please add these items to your prayer list or prayer chain. Our ministry could not exist without a solid foundation of prayer from the friends and members of PI.

- Prayer of renewal for both the physical and spiritual needs of Jamaicans across the island during this hard time.
- Prayer for the Board of Directors of Project Increase and our new president, Ron Gore.
- Prayer for the relief team that will be traveling to Jamaica in early November to bring aid and help to survivors of Hurricane Ivan.
- Prayer that we in the United States will help Jamaica rebuild according to God's plan.

Hurricane reports continued

two days to spare, so they came. When they (and we) learned of the hurricane, they stayed until Monday. It was a little difficult at times, but we made it.

Thanks to all who prayed. I really felt an unbelievable calm come over me starting on Friday [Sept. 10 before Ivan hit on Sunday – ed.] and lasting through Tuesday. May God return blessings to you for your faithfulness to Him and us.

I am so thankful to Feed the Starving Children for the shipment of meals they gave me in July. I can feed so many people now and give it to employees to share with people around them. Miss Gloria [on staff at Robin's Nest – ed.] cooked for 11 families near her home who had no where to be. She passed out a box of food to others in her area. They got hit hard where she lives. We drove up there with a bag of rice - spending five hours on the road to get there (mostly because of

here. They have even become better at their jobs since all this happened. Problems unite us, for sure. What a privilege God has given me to be able to help so many even in this neighborhood. Everyone sees our lights at night. Many come to charge their phone batteries here.

Winsome Oban Teamwork Associates Jamaica

To all our friends and partners:

Thank you all very much for your concern, prayers, updates and offers of help! Now that we have dial-up connection for e-mail we are trying to get in touch with some news.

Almighty God of grace and mercy spared Jamaica one more time from a direct hit by Hurricane Ivan and we thank Him. We also thank Him for many positives in our country at this time as a result of the hurricane even

though there has been much damage, loss of life and property. It is still not possible to do a proper assessment but despite what we have suffered there is much more for which we give thanks.

Here at Teamwork we suffered damage to the roofing of all our buildings, some more than others. Praise God the woodwork [rafters] for almost all the roofs are intact. But the felt and roof tiles are strewn all over. The room in which we have our school library got the

full brunt of the most ferocious winds. They tore out one whole panel of windows and sent it crashing onto the chairs. However, although much water came in from the window and the roof, praise God most of our books are still dry! Our bananas and plantain trees were flattened, and most of the fruit were knocked off the other trees, but we still have more to eat until supplies are once again available. We also have much damage to our telephone lines and the power company will



Hurricane Ivan damage to one building at Teamwork Associates.

felled trees and debris in the way). We looked at an area in her roof that was gone and water had come in all over one part of her home. Our school up the hill from the Nest has water but no power. They are still holding classes starting yesterday. All my workers are boiling water here and freezing it and taking a bag home with them in order to have some water to drink at home. None of them have power and only one has water. We are blessed to be able to help them. They were grateful to be paid even though they could not get

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have much work to do in our neighborhood before electricity can be restored. Our water supply depends on electricity so we expect to be without electricity and water for a while yet. But praise God we have candles and still some water in storage.

We have taken some photographs which we will send later so you can get an idea of what happened. Menzie and JD are at the moment doing measurements so we can plan for the repair work. We did some cleaning up at the church today and tomorrow we will start mopping up, drying off and doing what we can at other facilities. We are in need of finances and manpower, and therefore ask you to help in whatever way God would direct.

Gerald and Hyacinth Brown
Ministry partner
Montego Bay, Jamaica

The overall situation in Jamaica after Hurricane Ivan:

- majority of houses damaged or destroyed
- crops, fruits and vegetables were destroyed

- widespread flooding blocked roads
 - power plants were shut down
 - no public water because of no electricity
 - food has become scarce and more expensive
 - any and all supplies are needed
- The airport in Montego Bay was reopened on Sept. 13.

Randy Finnigan
Sunbeam Children's Home
Spring Village

All of us at Sunbeam and Cornerstone are fine. We didn't suffer too much damage. It was a traumatic experience however. The situation in the Spring Village community is not as cheerful though, as many families lost their roofs, some houses were completely lost, and damage to the school, community center and church buildings is tremendous.

During the hurricane, some 209 people stayed at the Spring Village Center and as I write (Sept. 16) there are about 7 families still bunking there.

We are now trying to come up with some kind of plan to help them resettle.

Annual Meeting

The annual Project Increase membership meeting and election of members of the Board of Directors was held on September 18, 2004, at Riverview Baptist Church in West St. Paul, Minnesota. Elected to the Board for two-year terms were Ernie Goldenman of Zimmerman, Mel Swanson of Carver, Paul Detlefsen of West Saint Paul, Gary Langula of West Saint Paul, and Joan Perusek of Inver Grove Heights. Our congratulations and thanks to these individuals for their willingness to serve the Lord in this way. Please remember to uphold the Board in prayer. The regular monthly meeting of the PI Board of Directors convened immediately after the annual meeting.

Thank you to our members and friends who attended the annual meeting on Sept. 18. There is still one vacant position on the board of directors. Is this a way you can serve Project Increase? Call (651) 450-0174 if interested.

The election of officers and organization of the Board is as follows:

- President: Ron Gore
- Vice Pres.: Mel Swanson
- Treasurer: Paul Detlefsen
- Secretary: Susan Detlefsen
- Members at large:
 - Ernie Goldenman
 - Gary Langula
 - Glenn Nybeck
 - Joan Perusek
 - < open position >

“Challenges in Jamaica” shared at annual banquet

Thank you to all who came and celebrated another year of ministry with us at the Project Increase Annual Banquet on Sept. 25, 2004.

This year's banquet was held at Zimmerman Evangelical Free Church in Zimmerman, Minnesota. Friends from Jamaica Missions, Dick and Lois Hokanson, joined us, as did Damien Waite, a Jamaican graduate student who shared some of his testimony and message with our guests.

After a delicious dinner and a PowerPoint display of pictures from recent trips to the island, the main speaker of the evening took the podium. Brother Bob Holland gave us an honest and inspiring message of his work at New Beginnings International Training Centers and the needs among the people of Jamaica for change. Thank you to the many people who volunteered with the food preparation, setup, and cleanup during the banquet. Your help is so appreciated.



Project Increase annual banquet at Zimmerman Evangelical Free Church. Brother Bob Holland (right) shared a message about his ministry work in Jamaica.

Fundraiser starts Thanksgiving Weekend

Chop down a Christmas tree, buy a hot dog and help Project Increase.

The ministry's tree farm fundraiser is coming up, starting on Thanksgiving weekend. Every Christmas season, Project Increase volunteers staff a booth at Goldenman Tree Farm in Zimmerman, Minn. and sell hot dogs, popcorn and other treats to hungry families in search of the perfect Christmas tree. Not only is this event a lot of fun for PI volunteers, it is a great activity for families. Goldenman Tree Farm offers hay rides, gift shop, free hot chocolate and cider, and award-winning Christmas trees that you can chop down yourself.

The tree farm event starts the weekend of Nov. 28 and continues on the weekends until Dec. 14. To volunteer for this event or for directions to Goldenman Tree Farm, call the PI office or email pijamaica@aol.com.



A horse-drawn hay ride is about to leave the craft shack.



Hungry patrons visit the snack booth run by PI volunteers.

**“Do not let
your hearts be
troubled.
Trust in God.
Trust also in
me.”
John 14:1**

Prayer and praise for our sick

Sept. 20, 2004

Kevin Brown was involved in a major auto accident this weekend in Montana. Kevin's car was hit head-on by another vehicle, whose driver had apparently fallen asleep. The other driver was killed. Kevin suffered a severe compound fracture (both bones) in one leg and injury to his liver. He has had surgery once to examine the liver and to treat the leg injury. As of this morning (per Heidi), his liver is stable and he is in good condition, mentally and physically. He is under constant surveillance as there is a possibility the liver might start to bleed again, in which case he will be immediately airlifted to Seattle. On Wednesday or Thursday of this week, he will have additional surgery to finish the repairs to his leg. Full recovery is expected. Heidi said that Kevin called her this morning (Monday, Sept. 20) to wish her a happy birthday (her birthday is today) and to tell her that her birthday card is under the front seat of the car!

Update: Sept. 24, 2004

Kevin is feeling great and doing good. His liver is healing without any problems. A titanium rod was inserted permanently inside one of the broken bones in his leg yesterday, Thursday. He tried solid food Thursday evening for the first time since the accident.

It made him a little nauseous, which was expected. He has no problem with Jell-O and similar fare, and will keep trying the solids. He is expected to leave the hospital today, Friday, or Saturday.

Kevin and Heidi's address is:

P. O. Box 491

Manhattan MT 57741-0491

We are sorry to report that Mardelle Goldenman, wife of Project Increase board member Ernie Goldenman, suffered a stroke on Monday, August 16, 2004.

She is currently living in the Elm Home in Princeton, and is continuing to take therapy. She feels her right arm and fingers are slightly better, and her leg is much better. However she is still suffering from arthritis pain in her legs and ankles. Ernie brought her home for a couple of hours on a recent Saturday, which lifted her spirits. The dog was especially glad to see her. She continues to have visitors and they occasionally take her out for a stroll in her wheelchair. Everyone was glad to see that Ernie was able to bring her to the PI Banquet in Zimmerman. She appreciates your prayers and would love to hear from you.

My Two-bits Worth

by Paul Detlefsen, PI Treasurer

The hurricanes have come and gone. Hopefully, Jamaica, and the rest of the Caribbean, has seen all the nastiness of nature it's going to for some time to come. Our thanks to God for His protection during the storms, and for His blessings and provision after the sun came out again.

Now, the real work begins. We have heard about and seen the destruction in Florida and surrounding communities. The citizens of the US are responding generously to assist those victims of the storms. Jamaica has suffered similarly, but unlike Americans, Jamaicans have no one to come to their aid. Project Increase and Jamaica Missions are endeavoring to put together a Relief Team to go to the island to help with cleanup, rebuilding, and distribution of relief supplies. Many of the people whom PI and JM team members have met over the years have lost everything they own, including their very homes. Others have lost possessions, including tools, implements, and bearing plants and trees used to produce a living for themselves.

We want to help. If you would like to be part of a Relief Team, or would like to contribute goods, supplies, or financially, please contact either the Project Increase office at (651) 450-0174, or the Jamaica Missions office at (320) 632-3284. The need is great. Please help.

Jamaica Missions holds annual picnic

by Dick Hokanson

On Saturday, August 7th Jamaica Missions had its annual picnic in Little Falls. The picnic was a great time to renew friendships and launch Jamaica 2005 mission plans. The picnic was attended by about 50 people. After a super potluck that had even peas and rice, there was a program to introduce the upcoming mission. Glen and Wilda Nybeck, represented Project Increase, and gave a greeting on their behalf.

Damain Waite gave a greeting from Jamaica Christian Boys Home. Damian is now enrolled at Hamline University in St. Paul studying law. Damian was one of the younger boys at Jamaica Christian Boys Home when "Jamaica Missions" took its first visit in 1987. Damian graduated from Northwestern College in Roseville, Minnesota in December 2003.

Tom Larson updated the group on how the Hydroponics Gardening project and Chain link fence project is going. The Hydroponics project is nearly setup and ready for the final water hookup's Tom and Julie will be going down to Jamaica in September to

help get the garden going. He said that the chain link fence project is now cranking out fence. A supply of wire has been located on the island and a man is now working 8 hours a day making fence. Gordy Larsen related that he had a contact with a Electrical Engineer that will work with him on motorizing the fence maker. He is also looking into getting a larger model of the fence maker made.



Lois Hokanson addresses guests at the 2004 Jamaica Missions summer picnic.

PI Brochures available

Spread the word about Project Increase with our redesigned brochure. PI designed and ordered new brochures last year and have many available for distribution. Why not request a few for the missions table at your church, or give some to friends and family who are looking for a short-term missions opportunity? The brochures are free. For more information, email [pijamaica@aol.com](mailto:pjamaica@aol.com) or call (651) 450-0174.

Jamaica Missions headed to island in 2005

A group of 20 people will be going into the island from Feb. 26 to March 5, 2005. The team will return to Spring Village Jamaica and work in the towns' schools. The prime focus will be the Christian Vo Tech, but we will also work in the All Age Schools, basic schools and churches. The cost of the mission will be \$825.00 per person.

Contact:

Richard & Lois Hokanson
Jamaica Missions
16492 West River Road
Little Falls, Minnesota
56345-4152
www.fastem.org

Calendar

Address Reminder

If your address is changing, contact the PI office at (651) 450-0174 so we can update our records.

November

- Nov. 10-20 – Relief team to Jamaica
- Nov. 13 – OSDJ Prayer Breakfast with John Junor, Jamaica's Minister of Health
8 a.m. at Redeemer Covenant Church, Brooklyn Park
- Nov. 13 – OSDJ Annual Banquet with John Junor, Jamaica's Minister of Health
5:30 pm, Doubletree Hotel, Park Ballroom, St. Louis Park
- Nov. 20 – PI Board of Directors Meeting
4 p.m. Location TBD
- Nov. 26-28 – PI Fundraiser at Goldenman Tree Farm, Zimmerman, Minnesota

December

- Dec. 4-5 – PI Fundraiser at Goldenman Tree Farm
Zimmerman, Minnesota
- Dec. 11-12 – PI Fundraiser at Goldenman Tree Farm
Zimmerman, Minnesota

If you have any questions, comments or additions to the Project Increase calendar of events, please call the PI office at (651) 450-0174 or email pjamaica@aol.com.

Mission Statement:

PROJECT INCREASE is dedicated to presenting and sharing the Good News of personal salvation through Jesus Christ to the people of Jamaica.



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