

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

Blessings

the quarterly newsletter of Project Increase
a ministry to Jamaica

Summer
2004
Volume 15, Issue 2

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Golf tournament coming up!

Experienced golfers and beginning amateurs alike are welcome to sign up for the 5th Annual Project Increase Golf Tournament!

This year's tournament will be held in more northern climes and one month earlier, on August 14. The tournament will be held at Chomonix Golf Course in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. Chomonix Course is described as one of the most scenic courses in the Twin Cities.

Chomonix is "located in the rolling hills of Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve. The surrounding 3,500 acres of trees, prairie, and water provide a variety of wildlife and native habitat." Chomonix also has a great pro shop.

The winning team of 2003, consisting of

Russ Conway, Dan Stegman, Kevin Brown and Randy Nystrom, have possession of the coveted Project Increase Cup. The trophy will again be up for grabs to the team with the lowest score.

Your \$75 fee for the tournament includes 18 holes of golf, \$5 for lunch on-site, one-half your cart fee and entry into contest drawings.

We will also have the usual contests out on the course, including longest drive, longest putt, hole-in-one, closest to the pin and others, with prizes for both men and women.

To register for the tournament, fill out the registration form included in this newsletter and mail it to the Project Increase office address on the form. Or you can call (651) 450-0174 or email pjamaica@aol.com to register.



Music teacher enjoys first trip with PI

by Arlona Bergman

The trip to Jamaica was the first over-seas mission trip for this retired music teacher. It was a positive experience of ministry and team member relationships for me.

I was surprised to find that many Jamaicans profess to have invited Jesus into their hearts and lives. They requested Bibles and Christian literature from us at the market and hospital. Many Jamaican people were outgoing and friendly to us.

For my part, I played the keyboard (given to

me by a friend who donated it to Project Increase) at programs we gave at various institutions, told a few Bible stories, prayed with hospital patients, helped Glen wash dishes, and did whatever I could to be helpful.

I was very impressed with team members' personal evangelism in the craft market and at every opportunity. I enjoyed the ministry at the Windsor girls home, and taking part in the time of devotions in the schools.

God Bless Project Increase! I was "blessedly tired" when I returned home.

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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.

- Spiritual growth for the new Jamaican Christians that have come to know Christ in the last few months.
- Prayer for the board of directors of Project Increase.
- Prayer for the many Jamaican ministry partners on the island now who are faced with daunting challenges in the everyday struggles of running a ministry.
- Prayer for the direction of Project Increase as we continue our ministry in the years to come.

You're invited to our annual banquet

You're invited to come to the Project Increase annual banquet coming up in September. Similar to a family reunion, the banquet is our time to gather together and catch up on the activities and ministries of the members of Project Increase.

The banquet will be held at a new venue this year. Zimmerman Evangelical Free Church in Zimmerman, Minnesota is graciously hosting our event and we expect to hear some great testimonies from the Zimmerman youth group who went to

Jamaica in the spring.

Along with an excellent meal, visitors at the banquet can view artifacts from

Jamaica, hear from guest speakers, enjoy a musical presentation and get caught up on the details of the work of Project Increase.

Details such as date, time and theme of the banquet are forthcoming. Next time you go online, please visit the Project Increase web site, www.projectincrease.org, as we update more of these details.

See you in September!

'The banquet will be held at a new venue this year.'

A Longer Fence

by Dick Hokanson

November 2003 started a story that, I pray, will have lasting affects in the Village of Spring Village Jamaica. Many of you read in "Blessings" about Jamaica 2004 A team and its introduction of a Chain Link Fence making machine into Jamaica. It has been exciting to hear during the past months of how the village is striving to make this a viable business.

For those of you that haven't heard about it, here is a nut summary. Several years

ago we found a plan for a small fence-making machine. Over the past years we tried various ways to get it made. As this years team started, Gordy Larsen from Duluth, Minn., tackled the project. The machine was made with the help of Fred from Moline Mfg. Gordy in turn worked on setting it up in Jamaica and working the bugs out of it.

Now we're in chapter two. The Jamaican that will head up the project has been trained. The Spring Village community is looking for a supply of wire. There are many contracts they could get if the final pieces can be put together.

How can we help? Help fund the extra supplies that are needed for the fencing, such as fence clamps, fence holders, initial supplies of wire. Another way would be to help fund a machine that would do the heavier wire they could get fencing contracts for.

If you have wanted to get involved in a third world development project, contact Jamaica Missions, or Project Increase for more information.



The Jamaica Missions team takes a break behind the chain link fence making machine.

Ministry Partner updates

New Beginnings Training Center

New Beginnings reports progress on their funding and facilities drive, including new shelving in their school library, new computers and new curriculum. The school year ends on July 2. New Beginnings is currently looking for a computer science teacher, a physical education teacher, adult education teachers and a science teacher to supplement their staff. More information can be found on their web site at www.nbitc.org.

Teamwork Associates

The April newsletter from Teamwork announces the arrival of a new truck and bus for the ministry, both of which were greatly needed. Torado Heights Christian School also announces a total enrollment of 277 students during the 2003-2004 school year. The school's enrollment goal for 2004-2005 is 450 students and they are looking for new teachers in a variety of subjects. The ministry is always looking for new sponsors for student tuition and would appreciate your prayers for their leadership.

Robin's Nest Children's Home

As reported in the Spring 2004 Robin's Nest newsletter, the Nest received a glowing review by inspectors from the United Nations, and received the highest rating of all the homes in the Nest's district. Congratulations to Michelle and the Nest staff for doing such an outstanding job. Michelle Robinette, founder of the home, says, "We are always grateful to be able to give God all the praise, and honor and glory for what He has accomplished." At the time of the newsletter, the Nest was home to 26 children, including permanent residents and temporary ones. Currently, Robin's Nest needs a state-side trip coordinator to communicate with people traveling to the Nest and to coordinate a trip schedules. Call the Robin's Nest Office - USA at (651) 779-4648 for more details.

Damien Waite

Damien is a talented young Jamaican man currently enrolled in a master's degree program at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. Damien is keeping track of his fellow students at Jamaica Christian Boys Home in Kingston and reports that a 12-year-old boy there, Anthony Richards, scored in the top 60 out of 56,000 children his age on the recent GSAT examinations. As a result, Anthony has won a scholarship to attend Ardenne High School, one of Jamaica's most prominent high schools and Damien's alma mater.

Jamaica Missions, Little Falls, Minn.

Dick and Lois Hokanson and their teams continued development work in Spring Village, a rural community outside of Kingston. Due to a depressed economy and lack of jobs, the people of Spring Village are struggling with daily life. The Hokansons and teams from Jamaica Missions are working with a Christian vocational-technical ministry in the town to educate and inspire the population there. Some of the exciting projects they are working on include a chainlink fence making operation and hydroponic gardening. The Hokansons are planning new trips to Spring Village in March 2005.

Find out more about these ministries

Find links to web sites of these and other partner ministries of Project Increase on the links page at www.projectincrease.org.

A new look

Blessings has received a face-lift. After five years since its last redesign, the Project Increase quarterly newsletter has been redesigned with a cleaner look. Like it? Lump it? Have some suggestions? Send your comments and critiques to susan@projectincrease.org.

Website is up and running!

Have you visited the PI web site yet? If not, type the address www.projectincrease.org into your browser and click away. There's a calendar of events updated every week, a list of prayer requests from our ministry partners, information on our ministry, a downloadable registration form for the upcoming golf tournament and more. Our webmaster reviews and updates the web site once every week, so stop by to keep updated on PI happenings. You can even download a color version of this newsletter!

Membership matters: Become a member of PI

Membership of Project Increase has its advantages. Members can serve on the board of directors, vote in the annual meeting and have a voice regarding future ministries and goals the ministry takes part in. Is God putting a more active role in ministry on your heart? Become a member of the ministry today. Send your yearly membership fee of \$5 to the PI office, 286 Edith Dr., West St. Paul, MN 55118.



Cornwall General Hospital stands among the hills of Montego Bay.

**“I tell you, open
your eyes and
look at the fields.
They are ripe
unto harvest.”
John 4:25**

A ripe harvest at Cornwall Hospital

by Ernie Goldenman, PI President

During the last three trips to Jamaica we have visited Cornwall Hospital in Montego Bay, the major hospital serving the west half of the island. A long time friend of ours, Evelyn Johnson, visits patients at Cornwall on a regular basis and leads our visits there. We provide New Testaments and devotional booklets to aid in her ongoing ministry there.

We have found our visits to the hospital difficult but at the same time very rewarding. Schools in Jamaica have regular devotions based on biblical teachings, therefore most Jamaicans have good basic knowledge of God and the Bible. But many have not made the step of faith in Jesus Christ that leads to peace on this earth and eternal life.

During our February trip we visited Cornwall twice and both times came away excited about what God had done through us. We all saw life changing experiences, and I will discuss three of the highlights.

Stephen Kjos from our team talked to a young man about 20 years of age. The man had been driving a tractor that had turned over, pinning him under it. When the authorities found him they assumed he was dead and even called his mother to inform her. On further examination they found he was still breathing and took him to Cornwall. Several days later in the hospital, Stephen shared the plan of salvation with the young man and he prayed the sinner's prayer to receive Christ. The man's mother told Stephen that she had been praying for some time that her son would become a Christian. Stephen was in the right place at the right time to help the man make the most important decision of his life.

Lynelle Anderson, a professional nurse, had a very emotional experience in the hospital's maternity ward. She became acquainted with a pregnant woman who had just learned that she was carrying HIV. When Lynelle shared the Gospel with her, the woman was more than willing to give her heart to Jesus Christ. Both women

could not hold back tears. Lynelle has not yet heard from the woman and often wonders about her and if her baby was born with HIV.

I too had a genuine divine appointment at the hospital. The first night that we visited I walked by a number of patients and seemed to be drawn to a man in a corner of the room. He told me his name was Barrington; he was a taxi driver and had been in a very bad car accident. I gave him a New Testament and shared the "Steps to Peace With God" tract. Then I asked him if he would like to receive Jesus Christ. Without hesitation he said, "God saved my life in the car accident. I want to become a Christian." It was like he couldn't wait to pray the sinner's prayer. After, he talked about how good it felt to have made that decision. I told him I would return and bring him a new Bible.

When we returned several days later I went directly to Barrington's bed but he was not there. Another man in a nearby bed motioned for me to come to him. He said that Barrington had been talking to him and sharing his "born-again" experience. He, too, had been in a very serious car accident, felt the Lord had spared his life, and wanted the peace that Barrington now had. This man was very excited to make that step in faith.

In the meantime, Barrington had returned to his hospital bed and with him was his girlfriend. To make a long story short, Barrington had been talking to her about his born-again experience and she also prayed the sinner's prayer.

Since returning home I have called both men and they told me they are living the Christian faith. We are sending them Daily Bread devotional booklets. Again, God put us in the right place at the right time to be effective for Him.

Everyone in our group, with God's help, had been able to effectively minister to patients at the hospital. We had a very exciting time discussing how God used us the two nights we went to Cornwall. Next year we plan to spend more time there.

My Two-bits Worth

by Paul Detlefsen, PI Treasurer

Summer has arrived, finally. One thing about being in Jamaica, the weather is almost always "nice," similar to August in Minnesota. Whether or not we have summer in Minnesota is a question I've been asked many times while visiting Jamaica. Jamaicans tend to think we are so far North that our weather seldom gets warm. I'm sure the members of the Project Increase ministry teams are remembering their experiences in Jamaica just a few short months ago, and some, I suspect, are wondering when they can arrange to participate in another trip to the island.

Actually, it's not too early to start planning for participating in one of the next ministry trips. If this is something you've been thinking or wondering about, why don't you give me a call at the PI office and we'll talk about it? It's one of my favorite things to do.

Also, don't forget the 5th Annual Project Increase Golf Tournament on August 14th at Chomonix Golf Course in Lino Lakes, MN. It would be great to have our biggest tournament ever!

Children's Chance ministry celebrates two milestones

The Children's Chance (TCC), a ministry that specializes in shipping books to Jamaican schools and libraries, celebrated its 25th year in ministry, and the shipping of its one millionth book to the island with a banquet and program on Saturday evening, March 6th.

Peter and Marilyn Gresser developed the idea of Children's Chance in 1979 while in Jamaica on their honeymoon. They "adopted" their first Jamaican library in 1980, and now supply books for the entire Jamaican library service.

The first 40-ft cargo container full of text and library books was shipped in 1988. In March, TCC filled its 45th container to go to the island. In addition to supplying library books, TCC also actively supplies textbooks to 110 schools all across Jamaica. During the last few years, TCC has begun collecting and supplying computers to the schools, also.

TCC has assisted Project Increase a

number of times over the years by letting us include ministry goods and supplies in the container their were packing with books at the time.

This is a wonderful ministry to the people of Jamaica, and like most ministries, they can use your help.

Packing a container is usually done over a three-day period when TCC has what they call a "Book Party."

This is when the collected books are sorted, boxed, and packed in the container. It's an exciting process, and they can always use extra hands. Please consider helping TCC as they work on collecting,

packing, and shipping the two millionth book to the children of Jamaica!

The address for The Children's Chance is P. O. Box 845, Hopkins, MN, 55343. You can reach TCC and Peter and Marilyn at 763-545-2708.

Congratulations, TCC! We wish you many more successful "book parties" and God bless you!

Children's chance celebrated its 25th year in ministry, and the shipping of its one millionth book to the island.

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, we request that you pay the shipping charges. For more information, call (651) 450-0174 or email pijamaica@aol.com.

Board of Directors

This is a list of the current members of Project Increase board. Prayer for these leaders is appreciated. Currently, the board has an open seat. Is this a way you could serve Project Increase? Call 651-450-0174 if interested.

Officers:

Ernie Goldenman, President
Paul Detlefsen, Treasurer
Susan Detlefsen, Secretary

Members At Large:

Ron Gore
Gary Langula
Glen Nybeck
Mel Swanson
Travis Webber
<open position>

Calendar

Address Reminder

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

July

July 11 – Zimmerman E. Free Youth will share about their spring trip to Jamaica
9 a.m. at Riverview Baptist Church, W. St. Paul, Minn.

July 17 – Project Increase Board of Directors Meeting
4 p.m. at the home of Glen and Wilda Nybeck

August

Aug. 7 – Annual Jamaica Missions Picnic
Little Falls, Minn.

Aug. 14 – 5th Annual Project Increase Golf Tournament
10 a.m. at Chomoix Golf Course, Lino Lakes, Minn.

Aug. 21 – PI Board of Directors Meeting
Time and Location TBA

September

Sept. 18 – PI Board of Directors Meeting
Time and Location TBA

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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