

Real Life Stories
How A Holiday Turned Into A Mission

In December 2008 my employer sold the company I was working for, but before closing he called me into his office and asked if I would like a bonus or a holiday. After speaking with my husband, we decided to choose the holiday.

It was then that things began. He told us that he and his wife were taking us to Sandals Whitehouse in Jamaica. Never having been to Jamaica, my husband Robert did a lot of research. We were looking for a place where we could fellowship because we both believe that when taking a vacation, you don't take a vacation from the Lord but seek other believers.

After some research we were given the name of George Maitland in Kingston Jamaica. Robert called him and the next day we received a call from a Mr. Kenneth Monteith (who has since passed into Glory) asking where we were staying and if my husband could preach. After making arrangements with Mr. Monteith everything was in place. The first Sunday Robert went and fellowshiped with the saints at Brucefield Gospel Chapel and the Monteith's. The next Sunday I went. We both felt so at home and felt the Lord calling us to help in any way we could. While there we also met another couple by the name of Ronaldo and Sophia Spence.

We kept going back to Jamaica, and to make a long story short, Ronaldo and Sophia felt led of the Lord to start another ministry up in the mountains (Johnson District) and we sensed the Lord guiding us to help them in that outreach. The first year Robert went for three months to help at both places (Brucefield and Johnson).

In November 2015 Val and Sophia started an Awana Club in the Johnson District where they were averaging 35 to 40 children. When we went in March 2016, we were able to help and bring the children to an Awana Olympics. The smaller ones came in first place and the older ones third place. The community up at Johnson is a community where the people really work together, even though the majority of them are not Christians.

February 28, 2017, my husband and three others from our home Chapel went back to Jamaica and were in the process of building a small church at Johnson District with the help of many people from the community. The Lord has generously placed people in our paths who believe in this ministry also and have given donations to help in this endeavour. On March 14, 2017 I went back for another two weeks and was involved in a week of Gospel meetings up at Johnson District, the Awana Olympics, a dedication of the building to the Lord's work, and a fun/health day as well. We had students from the medical school in Jamaica who came to help. One of the ladies on our team is a dental hygienist so she taught about that. We also had a fun day where we played games with the children (and the adults if they wanted to) then fed them and handed out goodies, all the while building relationships in the community.

The Lord is truly blessing this ministry. Please pray for this and especially Ronaldo (Val) and his wife Sophia. They started this ministry without any help, any vehicle, or funds. Pray that the Lord will continue guiding them and lead them in His ways. We are promised that His Word will not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55:11).

Pray for us too that the Lord will continue to give us health and strength to be able to help in all areas.

. . . . Janie Vaillancourt

