

REPORT TO: Board of Directors & interested parties

From: Roger Plante (coming from reports handed in by the ten missionaries.

Date: March 27, 2017

Re: Mission to Sacred Heart Mission, Seaford Town, Westmorland, Jamaica.

My heart is filled with gratitude to those very special fourteen persons who participated in the March mission to Sacred Heart. This was the first "three discipline outreach" we staged and everyone involved said it was a huge success. Father Lukasz Szweda, pastor at Sacred Heart and the two sisters proved to be exceptional organizers and hosts to the team.

Participants in the mission were:

Father Lukasz Szweda, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish---organizer and accommodator

Paul Connor, Akron Ohio, Optician, JOP Board Member and Group leader

Dr. Beth Love, dentist from Dublin, Ohio (dental)

Dr. Philip Baer, Optometrist from Estero, FL (optical) (third mission with JOP)

(Dr.) Raysa Hache, NP, Miami, FL (medcal) (second mission to Sacred Heart)

Paulette, Johnson, Dental Assistant, Ft. Lauderdale (second mission to Sacred Heart)

Lindsey Warner, Dublin Ohio, Hygienist, associated with Dr. Love's office

Shannon Mc Cloud, Thomasville, GA, RN

Shelica Anastari, Med Student, Tallahassee, FL

Helen Fusco, Lay assistant, Akron OH---sister of Dr. Love and business associate with Paul Connor

Gavin Hart, Kingston, JA Registration person....Gavin is part of the choir that comes to St. John each year--He volunteered to be the registration person for this mission.

Sr. Athanasic, R.N. staff at Sacred Heart

Sr. Jhorna, CNA and General assistant at Sacred Heart Pharmacy and ongoing patient care.

Boxer our friend from St. Pius who is always present when we need a helping hand.

I have had such glowing reports from the participants it would take some 25 pages to include all of the information given to me. Here are the basic facts about this mission. It was a huge success and interaction between the three teams working in unison proved to be incredibly good.

The dental folks experienced problems with the main portable dental unit and fortunately our service representative from Kingston repeatedly came to the rescue of the team and with the addition of subsidiary compressor and water cooled high speed hand-pieces, the problem was resolved....but not without causing a severe backup hiccups in the dental patient schedule.....all of which was worked out and in the end, all patients booked were seen and treated.

Tally of patients seen are as follows:

	Hygiene	Dental	Medical	Eye Xams	Glasses Rx
Thursday	23	10	24	28	31
Friday	25	15	30	38	24
Saturday	<u>27</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>
	75	44	86	106	85

Total Patient procedures performed is 311 and as a result of these efforts 85 pairs of prescription eyeglasses are being made for those patients.



***Photo of the group with Sacred Heart Church in the background. (minus Father Lukasz)***

I urge you to visit Dr. Baer's blog for a detailed blow by blow description of the happenings by using the following link <http://jopseafortown.blogspot.com/> When you look over Dr. Philip's blog you will get a great report on his slant on the optical side. Paul Connor, JOP board member and leader of this mission arrived on Monday and spent his Tuesday and Wednesday setting up the newly acquired optical lane equipment with Boxer's help. He did a super job and come Thursday morning everything was in good order. Paul found the buildings to be in remarkable condition and he and all mission team members had great things to say about the home cooked meals prepared on site for them ++++ the desserts brought in by the villagers. Paul commented on the great interchange and interrelationship between the three disciplines.....very difficult to achieve as so many of the patients were being treated by more than one area. The experiences of this team taught us a lot about the system and that will allow us to fine tune it as we go along. quipment problems the first day and part of the second day, the entire mission was a success. She commented on how well the three disciplines worked hand in hand and

how well Sister Jhorna and Gavin kept the patients coming in great order....often shifting them from discipline to another as the need arose.

One of the dental missionaries commented that she was overwhelmed with feelings love and community as she noted how closely local families are intertwined in a spirit of helping each other. "Seeing these people living in such poverty was very hard to watch at first, realizing that some did not even own a toothbrush, or know what toothpaste was made me feel sad.....but they all pitched in taking care of each other's children and sharing with one another whatever little they had."

Dr. Raysa, who was a returnee to this mission having been here for the first time in October was again phenomenal at what she did and she was assisted by Sister Athanasic , RN, nurse Shannon and med student Shelica and they were all kept very busy from morning to night. They reported that they did over 20 accuchecks with a high result of 358 and yet that patient did not even suspect she had a diabetes problem. Lots of skin diseases were observed....impetigo, scabies, fungal infections and dermatitis. Several Asthma cases were treated, end stage renal disease diagnosed...not taking their meds for lack of money. STD's were seen frequently all indicating lots of education is needed.....will take many missions to achieve this goal. Currently these folks do not understand that BP meds and Diabetic meds are not something you take for one month and then you are all better....

More medications are needed so that Sister Ata can dispense refills for prescriptions especially for hypertension and diabetes.

JOP is tremendously grateful to all of these wonderful team members as they are the base of all of our mission endeavor, however a three day mission of this type does not even scratch the surface of the needs that exist. We could be doing this every month and not satisfy the demands....but we will do what we can and I am sure we will be greatly appreciated for it.

Some comments from a few of the missionaries"

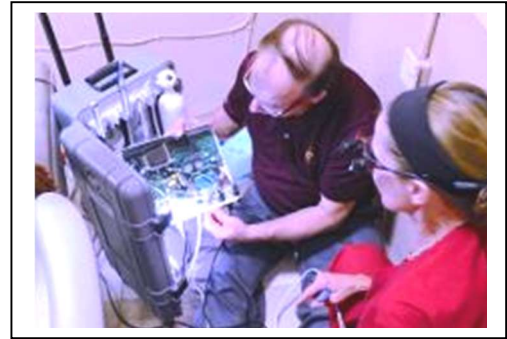
"They always are so grateful for our service. Our accommodations were very comfortable....To me it's all about teamwork, love, compassion, kindness and patience." PJ

"Father Luke, Sister J, Sister A, Boxer and Gavin were such a delight as well as helpful.....Thank you for trusting me with these beautiful people of God.....I am more enriched person for being here serving God by serving the people in Seaford Town." Dr. B

"Everyone was very easy going and adapted quite readily to the various hurdles which we crossed together....Aside from probably providing more hot water for showers (LOL), I have no complaints." PC

"This experience is something I will never forget and I hope I will be able to do another trip with this awesome group of people." LW

Paul and Dr. Beth working on the mechanical problems with the portable dental unit which was finally corrected on day 2 of the mission



And there was time for Father Luke to give a blessing to Paulette and others.



Paul and Dr. Beth get into the nitty-gritty of fixing the portable dental unit.

**Parting is such sweet sorrow:** Raysa and Sister Jhorna say their farewells after again working so closely together for three days.



## The future of this mission:

Father Luke is always looking for dentists, optometrists, medical doctors, nurses and other medical people to help tend to the physical needs of his flock.

Fortunately, he has a dentist friend coming from Poland for 2 weeks in May and possibly another in November coming for a few days. There is a GYN team from Kingston which comes from time to time, but with no degree of regularity.

Hopefully we at JOP will have the ability to organize one more “three discipline” mission before the end of this fiscal year (9/30/17) and hopefully four such missions in the following fiscal year.

### NEEDED FOR THESE MISSIONS:

Mission Organizers..... persons capable of handling paperwork, processing missionaries etc.

Each mission needs: 1 group leader

1 dentist

1 optometrist

1 medical doctor

1 RDH

2 opticians

2 nurses

1 dental assistant

One or two lay persons

Anyone wishing to participate in these missions should contact me for a copy of our “How it Works” which gives all the details of our mission program. We have a generous expense reimbursement program for non-doctor licensed persons, but not for lay persons or doctors....but the expenses are very low. All missionaries need a valid passport and ability to pass a background check.

Roger Plante rogeplante10@gmail.com 401-769-7444