

Report to: Board of Directors, Jamaica Outreach Program

From: Roger Plante

Re: February 22-23-24, 2018 mission to Sacred Heart Mission, Seaford Town, JA

March 8, 2018

This report is all about the fourth mission we conduct to Seaford Town and as a result of the hard-working and devoted missionaries, more than 300 patients were treated to a good dose of tender loving care.

This mission team consisted of: (R indicates returning missionary)



Dr. Mary MacKay, Lubec, Me, dentist (R)
Raysa Hache, Miami, ER Physician(R)
Dr. Philip Baier, Estero, FL. Optometrist (R)
Nancy Curti, LPN, Naples, FL
Shelica Anastari, Med Student, B. Raton, FL (R)
Veronica Mills, expanded RDH, Antioch, TN
Ashley Richardson, RDH, Antioch, TN
Paulette Johnson, Dental Asst., Ft Laud., FL (R)
Paul Curti, Trained Optical Assistant.

The team worked very long hours in the unusually hot weather to spread God's love to those in need.

The following results were achieved:

Medical: 99 Patients **seen** over ¼ of them for Blood Pressure issues and over 10 % for Blood Sugar situations. Many children were seen for various infectious conditions and there were many patients treated for skin issues, chest pain, various respiratory problems and infections. Unfortunately, the order of supplies we had placed with our supplier in Jamaica was only partially filled and delivered at last minute. It was very frustrating not having all the proper meds to treat so many who came in seeking our help. This is an on-going problem which will need to be addressed.

Optical: Dr. Phil saw 148 patients **69** pairs of prescription eye glasses were fitted and are on their way to Paul Connor in Ohio to be fabricated. Additionally, readers were given out to dozens of patients from our existing supply. Many patients were diagnosed with cataract situations, glaucoma and other serious optical situations. Which unfortunately we are not equipped to treat at that location

Dental: Our returning dentist Dr. Mary was very busy working with our portable dental equipment and she along with her assistant Paulette performed 35 extractions and 14 fillings plus many other treatments.....some patients had to be turned away due to the lack of a working X-Ray facility which we hope to have operative in time for the next mission, but mostly for lack of time in the day to take care of them. Our two RDH, sharing one chair were able to perform cleanings for 52 patients.

Purchase and installation of a third and permanent dental station had been approved by the board, but that has been put on hold until several scenarios play themselves out. This would be (in addition to the two “souped up” portable units we are now using. This would allow us to have two dentists working at one time in an effort to make a more significant dent in the huge dental issues that exist at Seaford Town.

One missionary posted on Facebook: We had a great team this trip and made amazing things happen....These people are very poor and they try to make a living by selling things they have made. Many live the Rastafarian lifestyle and I have learned a lot about the culture this week.....It literally broke my heart to turn patients away that wanted to get their teeth cleaned, we ran out of time and could've stayed there for weeks!Not only did the people appreciate us being there providing vision, dental and medical care and giving so much love to them. This was just as much for me as it was for them.

At present, we have a mission organized for St. Pius in Kingston for April 23-24-25 led by veteran mission leader Michele LaBasi (RDH from Akron Ohio). They will treat the students at St. Peter Claver School plus a full roster of patient appointments at the VanDomelen Clinic. Further, we had a dental team of 5 dental persons organized for June 21-22-23. 2018 for Seaford Town, however that has to be put on “hold” as Father Luke will be away at that time. Hopefully this can be rescheduled. When we reorganize that group, it would be nice to have some medical folks to join them.