

Medical Mission

February 23 - 28, 2026

This mission was to Maggoty in St. Elizabeth. The church there was built by Father Marek from Poland. Today the compound has the church, a school, house for guests and missionaries (holds up to 13 people). The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus work the clinic, tend to building and grounds, cook and more. They are truly tireless. They too are from Poland. Marta Socha is in charge of the school, library and computer room.

I was accompanied on this mission by Dr. John Freitas - it was his first JOP mission, Jean Vladimir Colas a med student from Immokalee, and our own Michele Labassi. We flew into Kingston and drove to Maggoty. We were told prior to our trip that the ride to Maggoty from Kingston was much better than going through Montego Bay.

Mission Days

The clinic in Maggoty is very organized and well known by the people in the area. We saw a total of 147 patients from Tuesday thru Thursday. The patient flow was good. We saw many of the usual medical conditions we've encountered in the past. I saw a woman with a very large venous ulcer that she had for over a year. I cleaned the ulcer and wrapped it in sterile gauze. I gave her antibiotics and a large ace bandage to keep the swelling down. Had she been in the US she would have received a skin graft. She goes back to the clinic weekly for follow up. Michele was a big help registering patients, doing blood pressures and sugar checks. She also was able to check out their dental clinic.

Friday

The clinic was not open on Friday. Sister Rita escorted us to Black River and we made 4 house calls. Dr. Freitas brought a large supply of Notre Dame tee shirts which we distributed at the clinic and in Black River. The devastation that still exists in the area is overwhelming. It will take a long time for that area to recover. They need a great deal of assistance. Also, the school and library in Maggotty took an enormous hit. We are collecting books to restock the library and my son-in-law is trying to obtain computers for their learning center. Perhaps we can give some consideration to taking computers - that are not in use - from St. Pius to Maggotty.

Another thought...Perhaps a couple of board members can meet with Bishop Presaud to get suggestions on how we can help them with their recovery efforts. Or, perhaps Loretta and I can meet with him on Friday April 17th and bring back his ideas and photos to the board for approval.

I feel this was a very successful mission and I look forward to returning there in April.

Dr. J Vento