

# American-Caribbean Experience



{Newsletter}

## In This Issue:

Second Story Students get Life Experience  
Ginosoko without Oida is Hollow  
Removed but not Forgotten  
Answered Prayers & Prayer Requests



Many of you who came to Jamaica this summer saw our 2016 IQuest team sporting around bright yellow shirts with this saying written on the back. These words are Greek in origin and we copied them from a great book we recommend everyone with students and young adults read called Artificial Maturity by Tim Elmore.

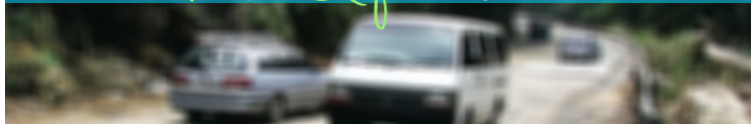
This year's interns came with lots of Ginosoko but needed more Oida for balance. As with most young adults and students living in America, they have access to the internet and information overload from our tech culture, while at the same time, their lives are very guarded by parents who love them and want to protect them. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads to lots of "Ginosoko" (knowledge) but without the "Oida" (experience).

It was a joy watching God do some fast work in the lives of young adults who had the courage to sign up for a 78-day grueling summer. IQuest is a life-changing experience. It takes guts and grit to graduate from the ACE IQuest Program, and these interns saw it through to the end.

We leave you with this quote from the Poor Richard's Almanac: "The great goal of becoming what one is capable of becoming can be achieved only by those willing to pay the price, and the price always involves sacrifice, discomfort, unpleasantness, and yes, even pain..."

Congratulations to Libby, Olivia, Daniel, Lucas, and Wayde for staying the course and making their mark in this ministry. We look forward to seeing you back soon!!

## Second Story Students Get Real Life Experience



The ACE Second Story program is an extension of our Child Sponsorship program, designed for students who have entered into high school. This summer, fourteen of these students were chosen to work in a summer job program after an application and interview process.

These students worked tirelessly throughout summer, providing assistance to the staff at Galina Breeze Hotel with housekeeping, maintenance, and kitchen duty, as well as supporting the ACE staff at VBS, Summer School and working with visiting mission teams. From the beginning of the program to the end, worked hard and make a difference, being open to new experiences and learning the value of money earned. They used their earnings to purchase school books, and they learned how saving and planning gets one closer to a goal.

The students discovered the skills at which they excelled, and they learned to appreciate those jobs they may not have liked. They are now more well-rounded, educated individuals. As a reward for a job well done, we took these fourteen exceptional teens shopping for shoes and then to Burger King, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Watching them grow in confidence and knowledge was a pleasure, and we are thankful for such a productive summer with this select group of Second Story students.

## Marla's Minute



Removed  
from the  
Program  
*But Never  
Forgotten*

School is getting ready to happen here in Jamaica. This week, all our parents and students are arriving at the Wellness Center for their book bags, shoes, uniforms, and new contracts.

Time flies from summer to fall. As everyone prepares to move into this time of new friends, new clothes, and new faces, we at ACE want to take a moment to say thanks.

Thanks for not only financially supporting these beautiful children with their education, but thanks for believing that ACE is the ministry you want to invest in to see change happen in St. Mary. This year, some of you have lost your children due to parents not fulfilling their part of the contract for sponsorship. Ouch. It hurts, but sometimes, helping does hurt, as long as we help in the right way. A friend of ACE named Beverly had her child dropped this year from the sponsorship program. As Beverly stood in front of me in the dining room this summer, she was teary eyed and asked if she will ever see her child again since he'd been removed from the program.

I looked at her, smiled and said, "Of course, you will. Just because he's off our program because of a parent's actions doesn't mean we stop loving him or you stopped caring." Beverly did get to see her former child, not just once but every day at VBS — and guess what? He still knows that Beverly and ACE love him. We don't stop caring for our children just because their parent or

guardian doesn't fulfill his or her obligation; we just have to show our love in a different way. By the way, Beverly now has two students in her life, another child that really needed help and always her Joshua.

Compassion and Commitment – it really does still exist and is growing stronger in the ACE family.



It is with a heavy heart that we share the loss of one of our faithful canine friends, Cali. We are so grateful for her endless nights of patrolling the property, allowing our volunteers to find comfort in petting her, and for her ability to keep all the other dogs in-line. She will truly be missed.

## Prayers Answered & Prayer Requests

**Prayer Request** - Pray that our interns will adjust back to life in the U.S.

**Prayer Request** - For all our newly hired Jamaican staff as they begin to learn what it means to be part of the ACE family

**Prayer Request** - For Marla, that she will have time to get some much needed rest before her travel schedule begins in the Fall

**Prayer request** - That Pastor Watson will find some help with his administrative needs.

**Answered Prayers** - ACE has hired Mr. Matthews, our Farm Manager, to oversee the garden box development as well as the farms.

**Answered Prayers**- The Child Sponsorship backpack distribution went smooth as silk with Ms. Russell taking the lead with all the schools. This week, all students received their uniforms, supplies, book bags, books and medical. Many smiles and much appreciation to the sponsors. Next month's newsletter will highlight this wonderful event.

**Answered Prayers** - ZIKA isn't impacting us at all. Our staff, our volunteers, and our friends are doing quite well as if this pesky mosquito hitting Florida doesn't even exist here in St. Mary. Of course we always rely on "Mr. Deet" to insure there won't be a problem.



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