

June 2016

American-Caribbean Experience



{Newsletter}

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Summer is a wonderful time for children, students, and yes, even our golden kids – our infirmary residents.

Since the middle of May, ACE has been taking the infirmary residents for water therapy every Thursday to none other than the Galina Breeze Hotel swimming pool! For those of you who used to take part in this great afternoon of therapy, you may remember us going to Pagee Beach outside of Port Maria.

Between the sand, the seaweed and the bug bites, we made the decision to bring them to the crystal clear salt water pool on the hotel property. What a winning decision that was! We put plastic chairs in the shallow end, and voila – our residents begin kicking their feet, moving their arms and hitting the big beach balls back and forth. It is a fabulous time to be a kid again!

Several of our residents left the pool and picked up the game of ping pong, better known as table tennis here on the island. We are still in the lead on scores, but, hang on, things could change next month as the continued movement therapy is renewing both mind and balance.



These days, making it to 90 years young is no easy task – but then, Mr. Alvin Brown is no ordinary person either.

About a year and a half ago, Mr. Brown appeared at the infirmary. When I was walking through the men's dorm, I noticed him reading a book. That's unusual, so I went over and introduced myself. At that very moment, a wonderful friendship began between the two of us that reminds me every day how relationships like these really make serving at ACE worth it all.

I asked Mr. Alvin how he got to the infirmary. His reply was, "I realized I couldn't take care of myself any longer and had no family. So I called a friend and ask him to take me to Port Maria Infirmary." Imagine how proud I felt knowing Mr. Alvin felt good about living at the infirmary. It was just two weeks ago, that after a pool day at Galina Breeze, he mentioned to all of us he was turning 90 and asked if we would celebrate his mile marker with him. Of course, we would – we at ACE always love birthday cake and good company. June 22nd marked his big day. Thank you, Mr. Alvin, for including us in your celebration.

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Marla's Minute

An Old Friend Returns



Twelve years ago, David showed up at the Galina Breeze Hotel when it was still Trade Winds Hotel to see what God was doing in Jamaica through ACE. Today, Galina Breeze is well-established in our tiny community of 13,000, serving returning Jamaicans as well as employing over 40 St. Mary residents. David, through God's grace, helped play a huge part in establishing these important roots of our ACE Ministry.

Speed forward twelve years: ACE has secured 3.5 acres of property "just down the road," as they say, from Galina Breeze. This is the headquarter office of ACE in Jamaica as well as the beginning location for our children's village. (Stay tuned for the short video coming next month of the special tour of the property.)

Our ACE friend came back and, just like before, had an essential part of this new beginning for the ACE Ministry. This time, however, he brought his entire gang of merry men and women to help with this property and to establish the infrastructure needed to divert water from the buildings. Over a few days' time, David and his team worked extremely hard and transformed our wetlands into drylands through water diversion ditches.

You know, Allen and I were thinking the other day, how timely God is in sending His helpers to help us. Thank you, David and CESO, for heeding the call. Now pray for rain.....

Prayers Answered & Prayer Requests

Prayers Answered The school bus was purchased!!! While we don't have pictures to show you yet, God –through generous people – gave us our school bus (a mini-bus) for summer school and the 2017 school year. As you know, small children travel by foot or taxi to and from school daily. Many things can happen to these innocent children. ACE has been praying for a solution ever since our old bus finally hit the dirt and had to be retired from the school-transporting business. Thank you, generous friends, for this great act of kindness in fulfilling the need to provide not only transportation but safety for our children going to summer school and beyond.

Prayers Answered For the teams that held the course and came down to serve this summer so far. They have been fantastic.

Prayer Request For our summer school teachers and students beginning July 4th for four weeks, that all will go well and our sponsored students will learn and love literacy.

Prayer Request For our Vacation Bible School teams coming in July. This is the month for VBS! We only host VBS once a year, and this year, our teams will impact over 1000 children in our area. Pray for good weather, special energy, and safety as our children walk for miles to be a part of these fantastic summer programs.



Many times unexpected things happen, and this is no exception. Last week our little friend Sharon at the infirmary took up a new residence in heaven.

I visited last week and saw Sharon slumped down in her chair. It appeared that she had a stroke and went down from there. We all know that death is a certainty, but it's never expected.... We would love for you to send us your pictures and memories you have with Sharon, and thank you all for your love and kindness towards her when you visited the infirmary.



TO DONATE BY MAIL:
ACE Accounting Office
P.O. Box 117117
Atlanta, GA 30368
(877) 500-5768
acexperience.org
office@acexperience.org