



Making a Way- through Business!



As most of you may know, ACE is very much involved in the Micro-Enterprise business in Jamaica. The program came out of meeting parents and caretakers of our sponsored children who were willing to work but didn't really have a plan or practical skills.

Many years ago, ACE thought the best way to help would be to offer loans of \$200 to \$300US for items like weed eaters (Whippers in Jamaica), chicken business items, tuck shop merchandise, etc. What we found out very quickly was that once the machines broke down or the chicks died or the food was purchased, the business fell by the wayside because of the lack of knowledge of investment and sustainability. ACE brought in some of the best business men and women from the States to offer one-on-one coaching. Unfortunately, we all had to realize that all the know-how in America doesn't necessarily relate to the day-to-day survival of individuals who are struggling just to feed their child or get them a taxi to go to school.

Those years were real learning curves for us as well as lessons on

middle-class mind-filtering. We in America have been so fortunate to think on a critical-skills level. We think all people in all countries have the same advantage – until we begin to move in the circles of poverty. Poverty is where the majority of people in the world live. There isn't a welfare program, a Social Security plan, soup houses, or free taxis. There is just a community trying to pull together to make it through the everyday challenges we call "living".

We have said that Jamaicans seem to give us middle-class Americans more than we give them. While we have the knowledge and generosity to give our time and expertise for career guidance, it is indeed the Jamaicans who teach us what real life and self-sacrifice is all about. Getting that latest TV or smart phone isn't as important as having someone to communicate with, someone who cares, even if all you have is a "banger" phone (a cheap phone that Jamaicans use to communicate). Knowledge is key, and so many want to learn and be successful in their businesses – not for the fancy things they can buy but to provide for their families and have peace of mind.

Today, with ACE turning 30 years old this year, we all feel that our focus has changed from the earlier days to having a better understanding of who we serve and the why behind it. We'd like to highlight a few businesses that are doing well and changing lives for these individuals, and their families and friends, and in the process, offer change for us in our well-established world.

Spiritual Discipleship

For those of you who know members of the ACE Staff, Saskia and Yomo were given an opportunity to further their Biblical studies through a program offered in town that Pastor Paul Hemmings is overseeing. The program is called BTC. It's a three year program that enables anyone wishing to know more of what the Bible teaches and its relevance an opportunity to learn.



Thanks to ACE partners for investing in the spiritual side of each of us and our entire staff. Stay tuned for more info.

Betty's Back!



Betty, Allen's mother, has been living in Jamaica with us for the past 13 years now. She has volunteered to do almost anything she's asked to do. The cement hauling and infirmity visits stopped a few years ago, but for the most part, she's willing to help.

Many of you asked this winter where Betty was. Well, she took some time away from Jamaica to visit Allen's brothers and their families.

Everyone got a nice break and change of scenery, but, for the update, she's back and doing very well — she is still amazing! How many of you at soon to be 86-years-old can walk up and down the hill to the parking lot here at Galina Breeze five times a day and still be ready to play a card game after dinner? She's proven age is mind over matter and that you are never, ever too old to serve!

With Betty back and so many of you returning, it's a wonderful start to our spring and summer plans! This year, our budget is a challenging one with all the many projects ACE is doing in the community. We pray that God may give you some treasure to sow into ACE this quarter, and as always, we are grateful for your physical skills in teaching, training, and encouraging our Nationals for the Kingdom.

Micro-biz Spotlight: G.B. Bars



Everyone loves chocolate, including us folks in Jamaica. A quick fact — did you know that chocolate first originated in the Caribbean? And that the cocoa tree only grows 20 degrees north and south of the equator? We didn't know this until a friend of ACE, Bruce, started teaching us all about chocolate and its origin.

You see, Bruce is a confectionary consultant with many years of experience in the chocolate industry, and God just happened to get him to Jamaica with his Philadelphia church team to visit us. It wasn't until he was halfway through the week that Bruce began to share his knowledge and love for sweets.

Jamaica, in past years, was known for exporting chocolate to countries like the U.S. and U.K. for many years. In fact, even on a small scale, chocolate is still made and sold today. In an ongoing effort to create jobs for our Nationals in St. Mary, ACE has decided to explore the possibilities of making our own G.B. (Galina Breeze) Bars.

What does that look like? Initially, we must purchase the equipment and materials to begin making our 2-oz bars. After attending a fast course in Atlanta a few weeks ago with Bruce and the vendors who sell the equipment, we came away with amazing information. In addition, we learned that by starting on a small scale, we have plenty of business already just locally! Would you like to be involved in this program? If so, contact us for details.

Currently, the plan is to hire two single mothers from our sponsorship program and train them to be chocolatiers! (smile). We hope it will be a sweet deal for all of us at ACE and the community.

ANSWERED PRAYERS & PRAYER REQUESTS

ANSWERED PRAYER Lorna's new home will begin construction as soon as the funds are received in office. Many of you felt the call to help Lorna and her family. Thank you and we will keep you updated!

PRAYER REQUEST Continue to pray for funding for our "Shoes That Last" program. ACE would love to have the \$5k necessary by the end of August to provide every one of our 200+ children with a pair of shoes that grow along with them. Please consider giving to this project.

ANSWERED PRAYER Our phones and internet are up and working! For those of you who didn't know the situation, all internet and phone lines were cut in the area. We went up to ten weeks struggling to be connected. It's nice to know we are back in touch with the world.

PRAYER REQUEST Our 2018 I-Quest Interns are preparing to arrive next month for a full summer of leadership training. Pray that they are mentally and physically prepared for the internship and for working in Jamaica.

ANSWERED PRAYER Our first thrift sale of the year was a great success. We made \$1800US and provided much needed clothing and linens to families in our sponsorship as well as the community. Thank you for the generosity. The funds have gone back into the schools we support in Education.

PRAYER REQUEST ACE will be holding its Board meeting this coming weekend in Atlanta, GA. Pray for wisdom for our Board Members and staff as ACE tackles some tough topics and seeks God's will in our movements for 2018.



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