



They were singing, and dancing, and laughing and having a great time...

Yes, it's that time of year again – Vacation Bible School! Each week in July, teams come down to Jamaica to help ACE facilitate VBS in the four communities we serve. Most of the time, the VBS location is the local public school where our Child Sponsorship Students attend. We find that by holding this one-week-a-year Spiritual Outreach program in a public environment verses a church, we attract more children and can refrain from being “branded” in a community as being “those church people”.



Many times, people who live close to ACE-partner schools have been hurt in some way or know of a family member who has been hurt by someone who has attended church, leaving a negative connotation of religion and a bad taste for any Biblical programs. ACE has been successful in reaching these families through this annual program. By not being affiliated with a church yet teaching Biblical principles, ACE has had a great response to the VBS programs we operate, thanks to our ACE partners in the States. Thank you, July VBS teams, for making this our 30th year of outreach!

With the iQuest Team Comes Talent



Next time you come down to ACE, you'll find a bit more color around our little part of Jamaica! To start with, we have had people from all over Mason Hall associated with the Clinic stopping us in town to say thank you for the “most beautiful” sign! Then, there is the incredible wall mural you all will enjoy when you meet outside on the Henry Morgan deck in the cool evenings. And we can't forget to mention the mural by the Tuck Shop!

Who is the person responsible for all this glorious artwork? She's Olivia, one of our many talented iQuest 2.0 interns, who has graciously spread her artistic skills all over the ACE place!



(877) 500-5768

office@acexperience.org
acexperience.org

Please send all checks to:
P.O. Box 566263, Atlanta, GA 31156

Marla's Minute: Tahj's Story

ACE has been sponsoring students for almost eight years now. We started with a few kids in the neighborhood that really needed help with food, clothing, books, taxi and shoes. Speeding forward, we now have close to 250 elementary and kindergarten students coming out of our communities of Hampstead, Galina, Water Valley, Mason Hall, and Heywood Hall.

The one-year commitment we originally made has quickly turned into a lifetime of learning and relationships between Jamaican families and their American sponsors. Even Allen and I have developed a special relationship with the families of our sponsored children, especially one in particular. Tahjebe, son of ACE's own Lorna from Green Life Farms, is now on his way to the Caribbean Maritime University, a prestigious college in Kingston that has a 100% placement rate. Watching Tahj grow from a skinny little boy in Primary school to a skinny college man (smile) is a great marker to how this program prepares our students for future academic success.



This is Tahj's last summer with ACE as he is preparing to enter the University and live on campus next month.

Lorna, Tahj, and I were sitting around the kitchen table a few nights ago, reminiscing about Tahj as a child and how proud we are to be part of his life. Of course, his mother started crying and then Tahj got embarrassed — a typical mother/son relationship. She has always had big dreams for him, and now he is ready to find them for himself. Tahj wants to be a Ship Captain, which seems very achievable to me.

For those of you who sponsor students with ACE, we'd love to know the stories behind your child and how your stories have impacted your lives. Allen and I, while we don't have children of our own, truly feel like we have a whole bunch of kids around us growing up fast. We are all making a difference in young lives, some here at home and some right next door.

What's your story?? We would love to know!

~ Blessings, Marla & Allen

ANSWERED PRAYERS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER REQUEST It's hot. What can we say - it's hot and dry. This time of year always seems hotter than the previous year. We need rain but not a hurricane.

ANSWERED PRAYER How about those new mattresses? We know it sounds petty, but if you've ever slept at Galina Breeze over the past years, you would love to know that those 22-year-old mattresses are no more. Instead, Galina Breeze purchase all new mattresses for the hotel (except bunkbeds) and everyone is quite happy. Volunteers can no longer use the excuse they can't work because the beds are too hard and they couldn't sleep well -- now, we have to practically set alarms to get them out of bed! Well...almost!

PRAYER REQUEST ACE has planted 350 pineapples at the farm. While pineapples are drought-tough, they are struggling; we have to manually water them every other day. Pray they make it. We need the crop.

ANSWERED PRAYER The honey bee business is growing, we've doubled our hives and looking forward to many pounds of honey this winter! Just wait -- Galina Bees Honey is on the way!

PRAYER REQUEST ACE is hiring male students from our Child Sponsorship programs who have found themselves out of the program and not doing well. We need your prayers as we consider to how to work with these boys. They all work at the farm and have learned what hard

work is about. Some do well, while others struggle. Pray that we will know how to reach these teenagers who have lost hope in the education system and family life.

ANSWERED PRAYER Our Katie has been given clearance to return back and forth to Jamaica! After clarifying what Katie was doing to help ACE, Immigration gave her a green flag and she is free to come and go as a tourist. Katie will be heading to the U.S. on August 1st with her cat, Macey, in tow. This is a great finish for Katie and Macey!

PRAYER REQUEST ACE and GB staff have been working hard this month. Pray we keep good attitudes, strong bodies, and, most of all, a grateful heart. Not every ministry gets the help and outreach that ACE does, and we truly appreciate it!

ANSWERED PRAYER The Shoes That Grow are on a ship coming our way -- just in time for school to start!

ANSWERED PRAYER Our own Beth Barnett Pitts is back working with ACE stateside. Yes, after getting married, buying a home, gutting the home, and settling in, Beth has returned to ACE to begin helping Marla and Susan operate ACE. Her first duties include flying to Jamaica to see all her ACE family friends and catch up on what has been happening the year she has been MIA. We are excited as we get two for one -- Colby and Beth! Thanks for coming home to ACE!