

Pyatts' Place in Paradise



Website: www.jamaicachildcare.com

Phone: (615) 469-4596

Email: Gary.Pyatt@agmd.org

Account Number 2515336

Missionaries have to approach their job differently in each country and in fact, in each community. One thing that we always must do is ensure there is follow up to any outreach we do.

In Jamaica, the Assemblies of God is well organized but still only has approximately 70 churches island wide. Peggy and I always coordinate with a local church before heading out. In fact, most of our ministries happen at the invitation of a local church to help them reach out to their community.



January found us presenting HIV/AIDS education on the streets at night in a suburb of Montego Bay called Norwood. This community is VERY violent. The police have had to quit patrolling this area due to their being attacked so often. Now the Jamaican army patrols the streets at night. This community also has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in its Parish (county).

When we venture into these types of areas it is very much like entering areas in countries we would label as "sensitive areas." **People do not want their photos taken** and it is dangerous to even be there. Recently we ministers were challenged by our General Superintendent to accept the challenge and go into the areas where the police can no longer go. His words were, "If we ministers do not go, who will tell them there is hope in Jesus?"

We began on Sunday night by teaching the local church both about the disease and about their responsibility to their

community in reaching out to those affected. Each night after Peggy would teach, I would present the Gospel



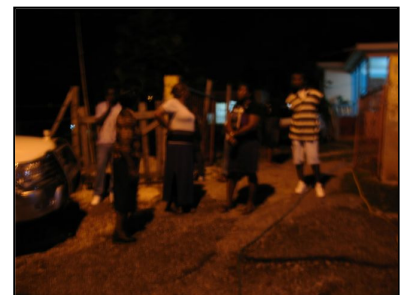
message. After the service, many people stopped Peggy to ask her personal questions and she prayed with several of them about their situation.

Each night we would meet at the church and local church members would go with us into the streets. The first night we went into an area the locals call "Beverly Hills." A small crowd gathered around, approximately fifty or so, to hear us. But nearby rooftops had people on them listening and inside of houses people were standing or sitting by their windows so they could see and hear what we had to say. The army made several passes in their trucks during our time that night.

The second night we were in the area labeled "Ball Ground." This area must have been a little safer because the crowd was much larger. They would comment on Peggy's presentation as we went through each slide. During the presentation, a rat ran almost over Peggy's feet as she stood on the side of the road teaching. After the presentation, many people came to ask questions of both us and the church members in attendance. We heard several people doing serious soul searching into their lifestyle. Two of the young men that helped us set up and take down our **Speed-the-Light** equipment were shot and killed the following Monday night after attending another crusade service in this area.

Unfortunately, they told the pastor they needed to take care of some things before they could commit to Jesus. God loved them so much he gave them another opportunity to accept His Son. They chose NOT to submit to Him.

The last evening the area was called "Hollywood." Evidently, it was the roughest of the areas. People would sit by their windows and listen, but were afraid to come outside. At the end when we told them we had information about AIDS if they wanted it, people would run from their doors to the fences and reach through the fence to get the papers and then run back into their homes. That night the army literally stood in front of us during part of the presentation with their weapons in their arms facing the small group of church members that were faithful in helping us each night. (They did turn around though when Peggy announced to the community that condoms were NOT 100% effective in stopping HIV.) It would have made a great photo opportunity but we were too busy



making the presentation to stop just for a photo.

Many of the photos we tried to take did not turn out. And when we took the photos, we always had to ensure that it appeared we were taking the photos of us and not the people in attendance.

Thank you for your prayers of protection over us as well as your financial support as we try to help reach Jamaica for Jesus. We will be back both in the streets and in the public schools again in February.