

THE MISSION OF COMPASSION: OVERVIEW, HISTORY AND VISION

"FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE"

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"- Matthew 5:16, NKJV.

1. WHAT IS THE MISSION OF COMPASSION?

The Mission of Compassion (referred to here as the Mission) is a social outreach ministry of Bethany Fellowship, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. Bethany Fellowship is a Christian Brethren Assembly - Jamaica. The Mission is a government-approved charity established to offer caring humanitarian help to persons in need and to support the outreach of the Church, as the Lord leads. It is remarkable that the Mission has been serving for several years with just a small support base and little infrastructure. Only God could have sustained it for His purposes. "Who has despised the day of small things?" - Zechariah 4:10. From the Mission's experience it is clear that "little is much when God is in it". Thanks to the Lord for hearts and hands willing to volunteer, for commitment and connections, relationships and resources to make this Mission a reality.

The Mission seeks to present the word of God, usually with a gospel focus at its activities. Among these are regular medical clinics which offer medical care and prescribed medication to patients, health education, a food distribution programme, support for church development, and, from time to time, vision testing, provision of reading glasses for the elderly, clothing distribution, health fairs, promotion of healthy family life, psychological support (e.g. grief counselling), training of lay counsellors and other practical assistance. Although the Mission was born out of appeals of rural communities for help and so started with a rural focus, its ministry has a wider scope. The outreach was launched with medical ministry at its inception because health needs were identified, and three medical doctors, who were among its first group of Directors, used their skills to serve in underserved rural areas.

Registration and Administration

Subsequent to the launch of the first rural outreach of the Mission in 1993, the leaders of Bethany Fellowship arranged for the Mission to be legally registered with the Government of Jamaica. A Christian lawyer graciously volunteered her time and professional skills to assist and registration came into effect on 9 December, 2011 (Company # 83170). After the passing of the Charities' Act in December 2013, Bethany Fellowship applied for the Mission to be approved as a charitable organization and this was granted on March 10, 2014 (Registration # CA-100-26). This registration allows for donors to the Mission to receive income tax exemption for their donations, and for the Mission to receive income tax exemption for some purchases. (The Mission's TRN # is 002-015-820). The Mission has remained compliant with government regulations to date, and government has regularly renewed its approved status. Thanks to the Lord for His gracious favour "for His merciful kindness is great towards us" - Psalm117:2.

The Mission is led by a Board of Directors, comprised of males and females, each of whom must be recommended by the elders of Bethany Fellowship and approved by the government of Jamaica as a "Fit Person". The Mission's chairman has so far been an elder of Bethany Fellowship. Annual reports are made to the members of the Mission at the Annual General Meeting. Amazingly, and to the glory of God, the work of the Mission has been sustained by volunteers since 1993! The Mission's leaders gratefully remember Bethany's secretaries who kindly gave office support to the ministry. They are the late Mrs. Medora Pryce, who went to be with the Lord on August 15, 2003 and Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett whose home-going was on July 22, 2020.

More about the Mission is outlined below under headings which include its mandate, message, motto, method, monetary matters, medium for ministry, early beginnings, historical highlights, and vision for the future.

2. THE MISSION'S MANDATE

This mission's overall mission is to show the love of God in humanitarian and social service by giving practical help to persons in need, and to witness about God's truth and the good news of salvation to those nearby as well as the wider world. The Mission exists to address three wide-ranging areas as listed in its Articles of Incorporation under the Companies Act.

These are:

- a. To promote and carry out programmes and activities for the relief of poverty, deprivation and distress of persons anywhere including basic food aid, health care, and other humanitarian assistance for the indigent, elderly and children, as well as to support and nurture healthy family life.
- b. To promote community development and provide facilities for training and support of persons in communities served across Jamaica.
- c. To facilitate the provision of education and religious instruction which shall extend to the training and education of all persons in Christian teachings and biblical knowledge and the promotion of biblical teachings worldwide including prayer, evangelism, community support and service.

The Mission's mandate is truly broad in scope! In summary, it includes social assistance, promoting healthy family life, offering psychological support, community development, Christian education and Biblical teaching, evangelism, and even world missions! "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations"- Matthew 24:14. Jesus said all ethnic groups and all peoples, of all cultures, are to receive the gospel. It is mandatory, and exciting, to be a part of His great, worldwide mission.

So far, the Mission's main focus has been on the first objective. As God provides more persons to assist and more resources, let us pray that the work of this Mission will develop and expand along the lines listed in all the areas above.

3. THE MISSION'S MESSAGE

“God loves you and cares about the well-being of your whole being - body, mind and spirit, your family, all your needs, and above all your relationship with Him”. In Luke 4: 18-19 Jesus expressed His comprehensive and compassionate mission to relieve every type of human suffering - physical, psychological, social and spiritual: "...to preach the gospel to the poor,.... to heal the broken-hearted,to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

These words of our Lord are at the heart of the message He has inspired this Mission to convey. During the Mission's limited efforts to deliver this message it has become evident that the world not only needs love, but responds positively to compassion as shown in loving action. Our world loves to be loved.

4. THE MISSION'S MOTTO

“Willing hands ... lovingly touching lives for God”

5. THE MISSION'S MODELS AND RATIONALE

The Mission's focus is not simply on numbers of persons helped but on taking time to establish a caring, personal contact with those served, and doing so with a compassionate touch. To offer compassion is to feel or suffer with someone with intense intestinal churning, as "from the gut". It is a deep mind-body reaction to another's suffering. (The medical name for the intestinal - or "gut"- blood vessels is splanchnic, taken from the Greek word for compassion -"splanchna"). It is to enter into the pain of others and be moved to alleviate it. As Christians, there are times when we fall short in feeling for others like this.

Why have a ministry of compassion? The Mission's team believes that compassionate action models the heart of God and can be used by Him to open hearts to Him. Compassion is embedded in God's nature.

"You , O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious" - Psalm 86:1.
"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion" - Psalm 145: 8.
"...Who forgives..., Who heals..., Who redeems...,Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies"...-Psalm 103: 3-4.

We become more like Jesus when we are deeply touched by human misery. A walk through the gospels shows many facets of the compassion of Jesus. " And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, TEACHING....., PREACHING the gospel of the kingdom, and HEALING every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved WITH COMPASSION for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep without a shepherd.... " - Matthew 9: 35 -36, NKJV.

The Lord ensured that we know how important compassion is to Him. He told the dramatic story of the compassionate Good Samaritan in Luke 10: 25-37 as a model for us. He illustrated how costly compassion can be, how sacrificial it usually is at several levels. The response of this ordinary traveler to a beaten, bleeding, robbed victim who was in his path speaks to us today. The hero of this story sacrificed at least ten things to help the dying victim - a quick setting aside and/or delaying of his own personal business, his energy and personal cleanliness (to clean up the bleeding wounds and bandage them), his oil, his wine, bandaging material (perhaps torn from his clothing), blankets or coverings, transportation, personal comfort (as he would have had to walk after placing the injured man on his transport), his personal safety on a dangerous road, his time to care for the wounded traveler overnight at an inn, and cash to pay for this wounded stranger's accommodation and food bills for as long as it took the injured man to recover! Then Jesus said: "Go and do the same"!!

Would we have gone as far as the "Good Samaritan" did? Sacrifice has always been a part of God's rescue mission all through the Bible. So personal sacrifice on our part is to God "a sweet -smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God" - Philippians 4: 18. Jesus' selfless sacrifice of Himself brought a "sweeping historical revolution in the world, namely the emergence of empathy for victims"- the diseased, the hurting, the hungry, the suffering. Jesus lived and died in

compassion. So too He calls us to sacrifice for others in empathy and action. To become compassionate is to become Christ-like.

Jesus revealed the basis on which we will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ:

" Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was naked and you clothed Me , I was sick and you visited Me.... inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" - Matthew 25: 34-35, 40b NKJV. On the other hand, He would judge those who did not show compassion and say: "Depart from Me" - verse 41.

Several scriptures encourage us to be compassionate because the Godhead is - e.g. Lamentations 3: 32; Zechariah 7: 9; Psalm 41:1; Proverbs 14:31, 19:17 and many more.

WE CANNOT DO EVERYTHING, BUT AT LEAST FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST CAN, AND SHOULD DO, SOMETHING THAT INVOLVES SACRIFICE ON OUR PART.

THE CHALLENGE : HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO SACRIFICE?

6 A. MANPOWER AND RESOURCES OFFERED BY VOLUNTEERS

The Mission is staffed by a team of volunteers, some are health professionals, general workers, and other support personnel. Reliable and committed volunteers have kept the Mission serving on the field since 1993. Some have joyfully served for over 20 years. Special appreciation is due to all volunteers without whom this ministry would not be possible.. Working closely together, our core team of Christian servants has been as close as could be desired to a dream team. Thanks to God and each volunteer for open hearts which have kept the Mission alive without salaried staff so far. Thanks to volunteers for "willing hands ... lovingly touching lives for God". Thanks to God for kind donors who have opened their hands, hearts, pockets and various types of resources to donate to the Mission.

6 B. HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can **GIVE** - cash, non-perishable food, and clean clothing in good condition.

You can **SERVE** - **The Mission is kept going by volunteers. Needed are:**

Persons with computer skills, administrative ability, accounting skills, public relations skills, receptionists

Drivers and vehicles

Evangelists and persons to share the gospel one-on-one

Guidance counsellors, family life counsellors, psychotherapists

Health personnel- nurses, pharmacy technicians, pharmacists, doctors

Willing hands ready for any general work

You can **PRAY** - **prayer warriors are the backbone of this ministry. Anything that has been achieved so far has been achieved through prayer, for it is : " 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit', says the Lord of hosts"- Zechariah 4:6.**

7. MONETARY MATTERS

Over the years, the Mission has been kept financially viable largely by the goodwill of well wishers from whom the Mission receives donations and contributions. The Mission gratefully accepts donations from sources whose values are in harmony with its policies and those of its parent church. Income tax exemption, which has been granted to the Mission by government, is available to donors. The finances have been managed by an elder who is a Director, under the guidance of the Board, which in 2020 approved the establishment of a Finance Committee, comprised of members of Bethany Fellowship.

In early days some funds were obtained by grant applications for specific projects (e.g. from United Way of Jamaica). It has taken the grace of God and effort to

carry these successfully through, to meet deadlines, and complete them with the required accountability. Again through the gracious favour of God, contributions in kind have been received from organizations such as Food for the Poor, University Hospital of the West Indies and pharmaceutical companies. Thanks to the Lord for also, at crucial points, opening other doors of assistance for the Mission. Audited financial statements are required by government and have been submitted to two government agencies annually. The audit is done by auditors external to Bethany. Based on the auditor's reports and compliance with the Charities' Act, the authorities have renewed the Mission's status as an approved charity every two years.

8. MEDIUM FOR MINISTRY AND METHODS

The Mission has used the opportunity to support the churches served in making a practical difference to the life of some surrounding communities. These rural communities have accepted the service as a faith-based social outreach ministry.

THE MAIN AREAS OF MINISTRY THE MISSION HAS CARRIED OUT HAS BEEN FROM A CHURCH BASE, AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY DEVOTIONS.

Experience has shown that most community residents look to the church for various types of help, and are comfortable accepting help from a church base. They appreciate that the church is "there for them" even if they only attend occasionally. In this culture, persons expect and accept that devotions are included in help from a church-based entity. This provides an open door for the gospel to be presented, for example at each clinic, and this is done usually by an evangelist or another team member. Thanks to the Lord for those who willingly listen to God's word at clinic devotions.

Clinic, Health Education and Community Service

From the inception clinic outreach has offered a base for Health Education. This has been disseminated to the surrounding communities at Platfield Gospel Hall, St. Mary and at Antioch Gospel, Chapel, Yallahs from the church-based clinics the

Mission held in both places. For example, the Mission has responded with health education talks and distribution of health brochures to church and community members concerning water purification, disease prevention and home management of various diseases.

During disease outbreaks the Mission has responded with health education and first-line medication (e.g. paracetamol, DPH) for church and community, accompanied by gospel tracts. This was done at Antioch Gospel Chapel, Yallahs, St. Thomas during:

The Chikungunya epidemic of 2014

The Zika epidemic of 2016

The dengue outbreak of 2019

The Covid 19 pandemic, which was identified in Jamaica on March 10, 2020.

The medical clinics held at Antioch Gospel Chapel provide a valuable service to patients as well as a meaningful link between the church and the surrounding communities. A community award has been presented to the Mission, and Antioch Gospel Chapel jointly, for community service by the Yallahs Gardens Citizens Association at its thirtieth anniversary celebration on April 27, 2019.

Patients have expressed their appreciation for the personal, caring touch they receive from members of the clinic team and the warm welcome they receive. At each clinic, persons are examined by a doctor and nurse, and the medication prescribed is dispensed by a pharmacist. The provision of medication on site, though costly, is an additional benefit for which patients are grateful. In recent times there has been a shift towards more unemployed, lower-income, elderly persons seeking medical help for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Some elderly patients have multiple NCD co-morbidities, requiring many items of medication. They depend on the clinic for medical follow-up and God has enabled the clinic to offer this consistently. During the Covid 19 pandemic it has been important to keep these co-morbid diseases in the elderly under control.

Responses to the Covid 19 Pandemic in 2020

Several special measures have had to be put in place in order to keep the rural clinic open, but in a scaled down manner, to the nearby communities during the Covid 19 pandemic. Among these were re-organization to allow for physical distancing, installation of a hand-washing station at the entrance and limitation of the numbers of persons waiting by introducing an appointment system. Clinics were previously walk-in. However health fairs, which attract crowds, have had to be discontinued. Prior to the pandemic, a series of health fairs serving over 100 persons at each, have been conducted for the surrounding communities. These were previously possible with the cooperation of local professionals, pharmaceutical distributors, and agencies such as the National Health Fund, as well as participants from overseas churches on missions trips, including some from Ambassador International Ministries of Texas, United States of America.

A Webinar on the new Covid 19 vaccines was held in a health education forum on March 20, 2021 by Zoom, organized jointly by the Mission and Christian Brethren Assemblies - Jamaica. Infectious disease medical specialists made presentations and answered questions from the public. This is available for viewing on YouTube.

Food Aid

Over the years food packages have been provided to a certain number of persons who meet the Mission's selection criteria. In response to Covid 19 the food distribution list was revised to focus on children who were reported by the church at Antioch Gospel Chapel, and the community, to be in need. The economy of Jamaica declined by 10% in 2020 as compared to the previous year. The significant loss of income from loss of employment which affected rural households, especially those headed by females, took a toll on children. There were some who reportedly were "hungry" and some who had access to only one or two meals a day, with smaller portions than previously. Special food packages with supplements were provided in September 2020 from Mission's funds and

donations from Grace Kennedy Ltd. and others. This has since continued with assistance from Food For the Poor at intervals.

Psychological support

At the wider level, presentations on mental health, grieving and healthy family life have been requested by, and delivered at church, school and community events. Counselling was provided at two National Easter Conventions. Coping strategies for families in the wake of Covid 19 have been offered by trained counsellors at two Zoom meetings held during 2020 in collaboration with Bethany's Women's Ministries. At a webinar held by Zoom jointly with Christian Brethren Assemblies - Jamaica on April 17, 2021, the Mission arranged for a psychotherapist to present on psychological issues arising from Covid 19, and ways to overcome these. A theological perspective on Covid 19 was also presented at that time. These presentations are available for viewing on YouTube.

9. MORE ABOUT THE MISSION OF COMPASSION

ITS ORIGINS, BIRTH AND EARLY OUTREACH

How the Mission was born

The Mission of Compassion was born out of cries for help from some rural communities. This helps to explain why its early focus was on rural outreach. At that time, members of Bethany's former Missions Committee experienced a burden to offer compassionate help in response to some rural humanitarian needs, and to support rural assemblies. A Committee member had planted tomato seeds and reaped an unusually abundant harvest of enormous tomatoes, some weighing up to 2 lbs! Members of Bethany willingly bought these. The income from this was managed by Justice of the Peace, Sister Ruby McCalla and provided seed money for the outreach.

The Committee had visited some small, struggling rural assemblies to offer support. In the will of the Lord the group's focus fell on Platfield Gospel Hall which is 24 miles away from Kingston in the hills of St. Mary. There Bethany made rebuilding efforts both spiritually (by Bible teaching, commencing a Sunday School and youth meeting) and physically (by repairing the building with help from a visiting missions group from Canada).

THE MEDICAL OUTREACH TO PLATFIELD

"Bethany's" Missions Committee dispatched a fact-finding team to Platfield to investigate needs there. Residents of Platfield called themselves the "forgotten people". They felt abandoned by the Lord! Life was hard for the elderly, the sick and the young. Among the problems identified were deep deprivation, lack of access to health care as there was no public transportation to take the sick to the nearest clinic, lack of a clean water supply and lack of educational opportunities for youth. To arrive at school on time, children left home at 3 a.m. in the dark to walk 3 to 7 miles to school. Only the most motivated made it there. Residents suffered from gastrointestinal, fungal, skin and other waterborne diseases since their source of water was a small polluted stream from which they collected water for household use and in which they bathed at the same time. The sick were manually carried a few miles for help on a makeshift stretcher. A Public Health nurse was seen holding a mother-and-child health clinic on the roadside. There she immunized children in the open air and examined pregnant women in the back of her vehicle! The building they previously occupied was destroyed by Hurricane Gilbert in 1988.

"Bethany" quickly responded by arranging for the preventive maternal and child health clinic to be accommodated in the church building at Platfield Gospel Hall on certain days. The plight of the residents was brought to the attention of the authorities. Next a medical team from Bethany was formed to offer curative care at the Platfield church building. This team of doctors, nurses, a pharmacist and support personnel journeyed weekly from Kingston taking all supplies each time - water, clinic records, sheets, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, lunches etc.

Using white sheets as screens, they set up temporary cubicles each clinic day within the church building where they examined and treated patients, "missions-style", and dispensed medication. The first medication was bought from the sale of the tomato crop and dispensed by pharmacist Mrs. Myrtle Hudson. A pit latrine was the only type of sanitary convenience there then for patients and staff. In this setting, the gospel was preached and health education (especially how to purify water) delivered at every clinic. And so the Mission of Compassion was born, although it was not until a little later that this name was adopted.

With the support of Medical Missions International (USA) and Source of Light Mission (Jamaica), Dr. Bernard and nurse Joy Dick from the United States joined the team for 2 years sharing their time between the church clinic at Platfield and government health centres. About twenty years later, when the patients were able to access medical care and transportation to a renovated government clinic at Rock River which accepted responsibility for them, the Mission's clinic at Platfield was closed. The last clinic was held at Platfield in April 2014. While still serving at Platfield, the clinic team from Bethany had also started another clinic at Yallahs.

EARLY BEGINNINGS AT YALLAHS

The Missions Committee at "Bethany" was chaired first by Elder Calvin Williams, and following him by Elder Brian Silvera. Under their leadership, the Lord led the Committee to another rural district, called Poorman's Corner, at Yallahs, St. Thomas, located about 1 hour's drive away from "Bethany" in Kingston. Evangelist Al Lambert was moved to point the committee to the needs of St. Thomas. One Saturday afternoon, members of the team drove out to St. Thomas in two cars to explore this report. The group went beyond Yallahs but led by the Lord, returned and stopped at Phase 1 of the Yallahs Gardens Housing Scheme and interacted with residents. Next, open-air meetings and children's meetings followed in a small park there. Out of these early evangelistic efforts persons accepted the Lord

Jesus Christ as Saviour. During follow-up and house-to-house visitations in the community, the members of the Mission's team personally witnessed deprivation in some homes. They were moved by appeals from several persons for help. The question that arose was - how would the Lord have the team to respond?

HOW DID THE MISSION GET ITS NAME?

In response to the group's eye witness accounts, some members of the Missions Committee, who were also part of Bethany's Women's Ministries, sought the Lord in times of prayer and fasting for a word for future direction regarding the Yallahs outreach. Among them were Meleta Chambers, Ruby McCalla, Kathleen Rogers, Medora Pryce and Angela Ramlal-Williams. During a time of prayer and fasting for the Lord's direction, this word from the Lord was impressed on members of this group: "**Cover the area with My compassion**". The rural outreach programme to Yallahs was developed in obedience to this direction and was given the name "Mission of Compassion". "Mission", because the word "mission" means "sent" and also to acknowledge its roots in the original Missions Committee; and "Compassion" because the Lord had directed the group to minister in compassion. More about this and the clinic follows.

10. THE MISSION, EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING

The Mission helped to support the planting of the new church which arose out of the Committee's evangelistic activities at Phases 1 and 2 of the Yallahs Housing Schemes at Poorman's Corner, Yallahs, St. Thomas, followed by the first tent crusade at which persons accepted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Antioch Gospel Chapel ("Antioch"), A Christian Brethren Assembly - Jamaica, was planted there to disciple these believers. The Mission came alongside from the beginning to support the evangelistic effort with food, clothing, and a counselling service for children.

A medical clinic for children was started there when Elder Silvera constructed a sturdy open-sided shed, made of a steel frame and a zinc roof to replace the tent

which had to be dismantled. Residents at first called "Antioch" "the cow-shed church" because cows entered and sat on the dirt floor. Manure had to be removed before children's clinic and church. In February 1995, the building was extended to 1200 square feet, and plywood sides (which offered more privacy), and a concrete floor were added. Clinic was then extended to adults. A food distribution programme was commenced. As a result, the community changed the nickname of Antioch Gospel Chapel to: **"THE HELPING CHURCH"**.

THE "P - E - A - C - E" FOCUS

The Mission has worked hand-in-hand with the church to address aspects of the **"A"** and the **"C"** parts of the **"P-E-A-C-E"** focus recommended by Rick Warren for church development.

- P - Plant churches**
- E - Equip servant leaders**
- A - Assist the poor**
- C - Care for the Sick**
- E - Educate the next generation**

A significant proportion of the early members of Antioch Gospel Chapel have been touched by the Mission's clinic ministry.

It is clear that the history of Antioch Gospel Chapel is intertwined with the work of the Mission of Compassion. God used the clinic outreach to help Bethany to purchase land for church planting there. Bethany had a long-standing application to purchase a plot of land at Yallahs on which to construct a building for Antioch Gospel Chapel. Objections to the sale of the land to Bethany were raised by some influential persons who had interest in the land for other purposes. No progress could be made for a long time. The church prayed and fasted, and the Lord moved. By divine providence, government representatives turned up to make a decision about who the land should be sold to on the very first day of a week-long

community health fair organized there by the Mission of Compassion. They saw a large group of patients waiting under two tents supplied by the Ministry of Health, which had also supplied furniture for use by the health team. Attending to the patients were the Mission's volunteers, assisted by a medical mission's team from Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., under the leadership of Pastor Woods. When the head of the group from the Jamaican government saw the crowd, and the arrangements made to serve them, he declared: "This is what a church should be doing! It is a good service to the community. I am going to see to it that this church gets the land". True to his word, the sale of the land went through to Bethany shortly after. Only God could have arranged this! To God be the glory!

11. WHAT IS DONE AT CLINICS

Here is an outline of clinic activities.

1. Clinic devotion is held in the waiting area. Clinic opens with a time of Bible reading and prayer with patients. A word from the Bible and/or the good news of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ is shared.
2. Patients attending are registered and a small token contribution received and recorded from those who wish to give one. This helps patients to value the care they receive, avoid over-dependency and preserve personal dignity. This is put towards overhead expenses of the clinic. No one is turned away if he/she does not contribute.
3. An intake record is set up for each new patient and records of patients who have previously attended are retrieved. These are given to the nurse.
4. A history of the patients' medical complaints, their weights, blood pressures, temperatures and glucometer readings (where appropriate) are taken by a nurse.
5. A doctor then interviews, examines, treats (or prescribes) for each patient and advises about follow up action.

6. When medication is prescribed qualified personnel dispense it on site, as long as it is available.

7. Patients sign a medication log to verify how many items of medication they have received.

The Mission procures medication by purchase or donations for this purpose.

12. GOING FORWARD: MISSION OF COMPASSION'S VISION

A. THE MISSION OF COMPASSION'S WIDER VISION

This includes development of underdeveloped areas of the Mission's objectives.

VISION 1. To support Bethany Fellowship in evangelistic outreach to surrounding communities and/or the school community, linked to humanitarian assistance where possible.

VISION 2 : To assist Bethany Fellowship to develop programmes for psychological support for its members, and school and community members.

VISION 3: To promote healthy family life and positive parenting based on Biblical/Christian principles through presentations, seminars/webinars, group discussions and other useful means through Bethany Fellowship.

VISION 4: To support Christian-based action taken by Bethany Fellowship to promote community development.

VISION 5: To facilitate church planting as, and where, the Lord leads Bethany Fellowship.

VISION 6: To encourage and support persons to take the good news of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, in partnership with worldwide missions organizations, and as the Lord leads.

13. SOME MEMORABLE MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

December 1993 - April 10, 2014: First Mission Clinic was opened and subsequent clinics held at Platfield Gospel Hall, Platfield, St. Mary for over 20 years.

1994 - Present: Children's clinic opened and held at Antioch Gospel Chapel, Yallahs, St. Thomas.

1995 - Present: Clinic for adults opened and held at Antioch Gospel Chapel, Yallahs, St. Thomas.

2006 - February 2007: A van donated - A Jamaican couple, originally from a rural Jamaican community and now residing in the USA, expressed interest in rural medical outreach and kindly donated funds for the purchase of a clinic vehicle to transport health personnel, medical supplies and food items to rural sites. A 2002 Nissan Caravan was purchased in February 2007.

December 9, 2011: The Mission was legally registered through the foresight of the leaders of Bethany Fellowship - The leaders of Bethany Fellowship collaborated with a lawyer (Mrs. Sharon Neil-Smith) from a sister church, Swallowfield Chapel, who graciously donated her professional services to craft the Articles of Incorporation of the Mission and to have the Mission registered legally as a company with the Companies Office of Jamaica.

2011 - 2012: Construction was carried out and space provided to accommodate the Mission clinic at Antioch Gospel Chapel - Funds were donated by overseas and local supporters towards construction of a section (**1840 square feet**) of the building at Antioch Gospel Chapel, specifically for the Mission.

2011: Elders of "Bethany" decide that because the Northern Wing at "Antioch" was constructed with funds donated to the Mission, the Mission should occupy the Northern Wing there on a lease agreement for 99 years

October 2011: Furniture and Medical supplies received - The Mission received a significant donation of furniture and medical equipment from Mona Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), University Hospital of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.

October 2011 - September 2012: Monetary grant received - First grant of J\$600,000 from United Way of Jamaica towards medical equipment and supplies for opening of the newly built clinic.

2012: A water tank donated - The Mission received a thoughtful gift of a 800 – gallon water tank from a community member to supply the clinic when there were water lock-offs in the area.

March 15, 2012: Formal Opening of the Northern Wing of the new building to accommodate the Mission - First clinic held in the new building with thanksgiving and prayer.

2011 and July 2012: Decision reaffirmed for the Mission to occupy the area designated for its use at "Antioch" under a lease agreement - A decision was previously taken at a meeting of Elders at Bethany Fellowship in 2011, and reaffirmed at a meeting with representatives of the Mission (held at the home of Elder and Mrs. Lawrence Nicholson), that the Northern Wing of the building at Antioch Gospel Chapel, which was constructed with funds donated for Mission of Compassion's compassionate outreach and designated for clinic use, should be leased by Bethany to the Mission for 99 years.

March 2014: The Mission was granted Government approval as a registered charitable organization - **The Mission** was simultaneously granted income tax exemption by government for donors.

April 2014: Clinic at Platfield Gospel Hall, Platfield, St. Mary discontinued and patients referred to Rock River Health Centre, after serving surrounding communities there for over 20 years.

September 2013 - September 2014: Second grant from United Way of Jamaica - for computerizing of the clinic dispensing system and procurement of medication and clinic supplies for one year.

2014 : Re-organized community clinic at Antioch Gospel Chapel, Yallahs - new volunteers trained from community, church and elsewhere.

August 14, 2018 : Lease agreement for 99 years legally signed by Christian Brethren Assemblies- Jamaica, "Bethany", and Mission of Compassion

April 2019 : **Certification of recognition for community service received** - The Mission was jointly recognized with Antioch Gospel Chapel by the Yallahs Gardens Citizens' Association at their 30th anniversary celebration for community service.

July 2020 : Response to Covid 19 by re-arranging of clinic, developing new forms and training of former and new volunteers, to observe newly instituted protocols with regard to the Covid 19 pandemic, which was identified in Jamaica on March 10, 2020.

November 2020: Aging Nissan van sold and drivers volunteered to use their personal vehicles for the work.

March 2021: Some members of the clinic team voluntarily vaccinated against Covid 19.

March 20, 2021: First Covid 19 Webinar jointly with Christian Brethren Assemblies-Jamaica.

April 17, 2021: Second Covid 19 Webinar jointly with Christian Brethren Assemblies-Jamaica.

TOGETHER LET US BE THE HEART AND HANDS OF JESUS, EXTENDED TO CARE DEEPLY FOR THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING OF OTHERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE!