

FCNC Missions update for August 13th

Much like 2020, this year has been full of uncertainty and has brought new challenges in the mission fields. As stewards of the funds provided to the Yearly Meeting Missions committee, we have to pray and remember to have faith that God will use the money to benefit His Kingdom, even though our limited vision may not see the results. What follows is a brief update on some of the missions that the Yearly Meeting supports financially.

FUM supported missions:

Belize – At the Friends Boy School, students were not allowed to attend in person for most of the year due to Covid restrictions. Friends in other Yearly Meetings provided the funding so that every student received a device that they could complete their work at home. Four students graduated in June. Nikki Holland continues to serve as Director of the School. Oscar Mmbali, the pastor of Belize Friends Church recently made a visit to the U.S. Due to resurgence of Covid, Oscar had to return to Belize earlier than planned. Some of the restrictions in Belize were reinstated including curfews and allowing one hour to attend worship. Even with these obstacles, Oscar says they still continue to see new faces trickle into the Church.

Africa – Friends in east Africa continue to struggle with medical aide and Covid cases are back on the rise. Economically, the situation is no better. For the most part, what little income there was before Covid is now gone. Until they can receive adequate supply of vaccinations, these burdens will persist. Any amount of funding is desperately needed at Lugulu Hospital and Friends Theological College. But Good News! The Church is growing. New Meetings continue to be established in both Kenya and Tanzania.

Jamaica – (update from Brent McKinney) The impacts of Covid-19 on our Jamaican Friends has been similar to Americans; businesses, schools and churches closed, students studied at homes where there is internet and if they have a computer; only essential businesses remained open. The big difference has been that the Jamaican government provided no help; therefore, most families have had no household income to pay for essential services such as electricity, water, and food. As a result, crime has soared, robberies, injuries and homicides have been frequent occurrences. To fight the crime, curfews have been implemented in both urban and rural areas. Folks must be in their homes about two hours before dark. The US State Department has had a “Level 4” warning for travel to Jamaica.

At this time, schools remain closed, and churches are beginning to have worship services for a limited number of attenders. This past spring, Jamaica began receiving the vaccine from American companies. A few of our Jamaica friends have now been vaccinated, but the country is several months behind the United States with their recovery. The US State Department recently upgraded the travel warning to “Level 3.”

Meg Williams and Greater Greensboro Youth for Christ – Meg’s mission field has been in local schools. Due to Covid, the schools have been mostly closed the past year. Meg has had to improvise and invent new ways to interact with the students. This has included visiting many in

their homes and in other outdoor settings. This in many ways has been a blessing because she has reached many on a personal level that was not possible before. Meg has been very creative and has had the chance to witness to students and their families that only these unusual circumstances has allowed. Covid has not prevented God's work from being accomplished. Through Meg, these unplanned changes have actually been a blessing.

Bob and Hope Carter, missionaries in Kijabe, Kenya – Both Bob and Hope work with the Moffat Bible College and were able to see the graduation of 26 students this past term. Unlike last year, they were able to have the graduation in person. Bob is no longer on the palliative care clinic team at Kijabe hospital, but he has been teaching and giving lectures to the staff. Bob has been working with many organizations trying to educate the populace on Covid prevention and easing any fears once the vaccination becomes available. As of the beginning of August, only 2.4% of Kenyans have been able to receive a vaccination. Like many third-world countries, covid vaccinations have not been available in Kenya except for a very limited basis. The country is currently seeing its 4th spike in deaths since the pandemic began.

Mexico – Update from Beth Saunders in person.

Friends Campus Ministry - No update from Carrie Ritter

Approximately \$10,000 dollars has been donated thus far through our 'Missions Sunday' campaign. Some programs have not been funded this year due to the pandemic limiting our access to foreign countries such as Mexico and Jamaica. MOWA is in transition and funds have not been allocated thus far for 2021.

As we continue to face an ever changing landscape in the mission fields, and increased hardships in many countries, please continue to pray for those carrying the message of Jesus to the World and for those who need to hear this message and so desperately depend on our support.