

DOWNTIME is GIFTED TIME
“We make plans and God laughs”
(anonymous)

Since 1990 Mission Jamaica has been blessed, guided and carried out to the glory of God. However, as humans, our plans, though directed by God, are not always prepared in His time. Thank God He is with us and fixes our human errors. Each year, preparation is made such that each mission site has a number of work projects designed to keep all missionaries busy, giving our best to God’s people of Jamaica. Thanks to God, for He has blessed us with wonderfully “eager to accomplish” hard workers, who do ultimately accomplish an incredible amount of work each and every week. Occasionally, some projects, in spite of many hours of preparation, get delayed. There are a number of reasons we have seen this happen, such as, supplies not arriving on site in a timely fashion, electricity and/or water becomes temporarily unavailable, or the project manager is helping a crew with a problem (or getting them started is taking a little longer than planned) and the rest of the crews don’t know what to do.

Whatever the reason for the delay, it certainly becomes frustrating and often creates an atmosphere of “wasted time” (idle hands are the devil’s workshop). Actually, this is opportunity for “gifted time,” that is, God’s planned time to do His other work.

We have begun a short list (below) of suggestions of things to do with our time from God on the work site. This is clearly a work in progress, with which we need your input. Please give us your ideas on the evaluation forms, so we can grow with you.

First and foremost, remember that our primary mission is about God’s people. Mission Jamaica is about building relationships through God’s love, though our primary vehicle may be building (fixing) structures.

-Share a moment:

Talk to a staff member or child that may be in the area.

See if there is something you can do with them for a moment or two. Playing and/or singing with a child may be a priceless gift. Sweeping or washing dishes with a staff member is just as valuable.

If staff members are not available, find a broom and sweep floors, walls or ceilings (one less thing for the staff to look at and hope to get to in their busy day) or step outside and pick up trash. Better yet, get loose kids to help you pick up trash.

Find a project that is going strong and see if there is something they need at the moment.

Serve water to fellow workers. People working on long involved projects often forget to stop and take care of themselves (God bless their commitment) and that critical glass of water will not only replenish their bodies but the simple act of caring will refresh their souls.

Take a moment to pray, share a thought with God. If you feel so moved, share a prayer with another.

Be yourself, be God’s servant, smile! Jesus loves you!