The Smith Family Record

Stories of, for, and about the Smiths. All the news that fits, we print!

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MISSION to the WORLD

Ron Makes Vision Trip To Jamaica

With his Missions Conference committments ending April 30th, Ron shipped out May first on an eight day trip to Jamaica, thus beginning the process of finding the next field of ministry for the Smith family. In Kingston, Ron met up with MTW Regional Director Rich Wolfe and MTW/Ministries In Action missionary Woody Woodham, who has many years of ministry experience in Jamaica.

During his stay Ron was able to meet several pastors and visit three different churches. He also met with about twenty business leaders who participate in a weekly discipleship/fellowship group. What Ron saw and heard during the week left him with the conviction that an MTW Missionary with the vision and passion for revitalizing churches and reinvigorating Christians could be of great service to the Cause of Christ.

An island of about 6,800 square miles, Jamaica is home to 2,750,000 people. Kingston, the capital, has a population of 750,000.

"What I found interesting," says Ron, "was that the two key cultural areas where an application of the Gospel is most needed are the two areas of ministry that excite me the most." (see "Vision Trip" on page two)

What's Next For the Smiths?

The Smiths are planning to make a family trip to Jamaica in August. Before they can make a decision on Jamaica, they need to investigate ministry opportunities a bit more. They also need to look into housing costs and availabilities, and check to see that family concerns and educational needs can be met. They hope that with this trip they will be able to discern the Lord's direction.

Vision Trip (continued from Page One)

Three Pastors -- All Named "Smith"

Most people would say that Jamaica is a "Christian nation." From a historical standpoint, this is true. But as is happening in other Commonwealth nations — notably, England, Scotland and Australia — the culture is moving towards secularism and post-modernism. "The question that churches are just beginning to ask is, 'How can we reach out with the Gospel to people who think that Christ and the Church are irrelevant?' The answers may be non-traditional, but I believe the opportunities are great!"

The Christian businessmen Ron met expressed a desire to "get involved" in their culture. Ron says, "They see the trend (towards secularism and post-modernism) and they think they should get involved in issues of public policy; but they don't know how or why. Well, I do; and I want to help."

Ron returned from his week in Jamaica encouraged by what he saw and heard.

Above: Worship Service in Portmore

At Left: Saturday With Christian Business Leaders

This beautiful prayer asking God's guidance and protection is Jamaica's National Anthem.

Eternal Father, Bless our land
Guide us with thy mighty hand
Keep us free from evil powers
Be our light through countless hours
To our leaders, Great Defender,
Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth be ours forever
Jamaica, land we love
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica, land we love

Teach us true respect for all
Stir response to duty's call
Strengthen us the weak to cherish
Give us vision lest we perish
Knowledge send us, Heavenly Father,
Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth be ours forever
Jamaica, land we love
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica, land we love

Prayer Requests

- Pray that the Smiths will get answers to family questions of education, housing, security and "livability."
- Pray that through more interaction with pastors and businessmen Ron will be able to determine how he might serve to advance the Gospel in Jamaica.
- Pray for Benjamin to be able to continue preparing for a career in filmmaking.
- Pray that Peg will see ministry and friendship opportunities.
- Pray that Allison will find a Ballet school that can help her realize her dancing goals.