

REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE LOTT CAREY MISSION AGENCY
BY
TRINITY EVANGELICAL MINISTRY
RETREAT, ST. MARY, JAMAICA
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The Trinity Evangelical Ministry (TEM) greets the Lott Carey Foreign Mission family during this your 126th Annual Session. Warm greetings to your President, the Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart and Executive Secretary/Treasurer, the Rev. Emmett Dunn. A special word of greeting to Dr. John M. Alexander, Chairman of the Board of Directors for his long and outstanding service. Our prayers are with you for a meaningful gathering.

TEM started with a vision of making the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ known to all, especially those in poor and vulnerable situations. Soon the Lord led the founder, Pastor George Coore to a poor rural community in St. Mary, Jamaica, bearing the name Retreat, where he brought the love of Jesus to bear on the people of the area.

The ministry started out with a Basic School, catering to children ages 2-6 years. It has evolved over time as a centre of empowerment, capacity building and development of individuals offering various services to the community and currently offers skills training in light of the high level of unemployment and poverty faced by many residents in Retreat.

The Skills Training Center provides job training and certification skills as well as Entrepreneurship, Career Counselling, Life and Personal Growth and Development skills, mainly to at-risk young adults (ages 17 – 35) years, although there is no upper training age limit. Most of the students (trainees) are individuals being empowered with another chance to make something worthwhile of their lives.

The center offers flexible training programs based on existing job opportunities and currently offers training in Commercial Food Preparation, Early Childhood Development, Food and Beverage Restaurant Captain, Hospitality Services, Villas and Other Properties.

The skills training center is operated in partnership with the National Training Agency of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ), namely Human Employment and Resource Training Trust/National Training Agency (HEART Trust/NTA).

The program at Retreat Skills Training Center also involves:

- Health fairs (medical, dental & optical) in conjunction with overseas medical missions to address health issues among poor and marginalized youths and adults.
- Vacation Bible School in summer in partnership with overseas church groups.
- We have not yet resumed these areas of outreach since the COVID-19 pandemic and welcome partnerships in the months ahead.

TEM's ministry is important to our Christian witness given the call of the gospel to bring good news to the poor and to liberate persons so that they can fully realize their humanity. As such, we see our role, given the context of these communities, as developing individuals through education and training opportunities as part of our Christian witness and mission.

We are confident that under God's enabling we will not only give hope to those individuals whose lives we touch directly, but that the benefits of transformed lives will impact their families, communities and ultimately Jamaica.

We are indebted to those organizations who have partnered with us to make this possible and we continue to be grateful for the consistent support of the Lott Carey Mission Convention without whose assistance we would find it extremely difficult to continue this ministry. During the course of the year the Basic School continued to receive sponsorship from the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and through the instrumentality of Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater we received donations of badly needed computers for the Training Centre's computer lab.

We continue to celebrate changed lives and the fact that annually an average of twenty (25) Early Childhood children and eighty (80) at-risk individuals are impacted through this ministry. Most of the youths trained acquire the National Vocational Qualifications of Jamaica, Level 2 (NVQ-J 2) certification which enables them to secure employment both locally and internationally.

We continue to give our God, the enabler, thanks for our successful journey so far. We have faced several challenges, but God has enabled our ministry to continue to impact the community we serve in a very positive way; indeed, the impact has had a multiplier effect on neighboring communities.

We have faced:

- Challenging economic times but have been able to face this giant through our partnership with Lott Carey, HEART Trust/NTA and the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. We pray for your continued support through prayer and your financial gifts.
- Infrastructure challenges: We have made significant strides in addressing the infrastructure, however, due to our financial challenges, we have not been able to adequately equip the classrooms. Also, much of the equipment necessary to deliver high quality training in the skills offered is lacking. In this regard, we must commend and ask you to pray for our instructors, who “create miracles” with the resources they have.
- We also crave your prayers for those whose lives we seek to transform that they will not only be successful in their training program but will find gainful employment and develop Christian character. Many of the students find it difficult to access the training provided because of their inability to fund their daily transportation and meal costs. This is evident by a constantly high drop - out rate. Pray with us that we find it possible to establish income generating activities that will enable us to subsidize these costs.
- Finally, pray for the inter-denominational Board which directs the operation of this ministry.

It is our dream to extend our program offerings so that many more persons can benefit. We hope that we will be able to meet our goals of improved facilities and equipment which are necessary to ensure the program operates at the requisite standard.

Our outlook and vision continue to be the development of a viable, self - sustaining entity through:

1. A well-managed training institution offering demand-driven, needs-based and results-oriented, high quality training programs that are sustainable and financially viable; developed as a Center of Excellence.
2. A fully integrated, well managed Early Childhood Institution.
3. Ensuring the continued integration of TEM within the community through its outreach ministries, products and services thereby creating, in a very real way, a mission center.
4. Providing entrepreneurial facilitation through the development of a culture of entrepreneurship among trainees as well as facilitating a smooth study-to-work program.
5. Continued infrastructure development.

Submitted by:
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Chairman
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