

BLESSINGS FROM COOL WATER MINISTRIES AND THE CRUZE FAMILY FOR A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We apologize for not writing an update sooner; it's been a very busy December and Christmas season. Jay spends most of his day's ministry planning, researching lessons and reading, that is, when he's not teaching the boys, or exercising with James.

The boys had a wonderful December, learning about the true biblical meaning behind Christmas. Jamaica has a completely different understanding: it's a time for all night street parties (Christmas Eve) where even young children indulge in alcohol, and finding a partner for a sexual encounter. On Christmas AM we had our own service, including communion. We bought the boys some sports equipment, and books and/or bibles for their gifts. Most of them had never received a Christmas gift before coming to CWM. For Christmas dinner, we went out for a typical Jerk Chicken and Rice and Peas meal!

On Christmas Day, I asked each boy to reflect on 2009 and for their thoughts about their time here. *David* loves working with the young men as an intern, and hopes to make a positive difference in the boys' lives, as he himself has experienced. It's been very rewarding to see the growth in the new boys. He appreciates that Uncle Jay has faith in him, and his coaching right alongside Kedar and him in their new roles.

Kedar really enjoyed their Christmas lessons, and gained a fuller understanding of the significance of Christmas in his daily life. It's been a challenging year, with lots of personal growth as a leader of the young men. His smile reflects the joy of the Lord in all he does. He has a zeal for life and a passion for the ministry.

Orlando has been with us for ten months, and he knows this is the right place for him. He has matured so much in his personal life, and he really appreciates Jay's teaching. Uncle Jay is a father, friend and a mentor, and daily challenges him to keep on learning. It's been a joy for him to learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

Steven is our newest boy, and has had the most struggles in his first 19 years of life. God is healing him, and helping him to leave his past behind, and is learning that he has hope through his new relationship with Jesus Christ. He is learning what it means to be a godly man, and to think positively about his future. He really appreciates Uncle Jay's teaching about life. He said Jay is fun and funny, and is honest and a 'real' person. He has learned so much about Christmas and its true meaning.

As we look forward to 2010, we face many challenges here in Jamaica. Two of the news headlines this past week have been: "*Church vs. Crime*", and "*Church Failing Jamaica*". Another article cited: "*It's been another bloody year in Jamaica. In 2009 there were 1680 murders. With 2.7 million people, Jamaica recorded more than three times as many slayings last year as New York City, which has three times the population of Jamaica.*" Another issue is that the government has raised the General Consumption tax to 17.5%; this includes most food items and medicines. This is a real hardship for the majority of the people .

We ask you to pray with us for:

- More young men to come into the program, their biggest challenge is leaving behind their carefree lives of alcohol, drugs, and women.
- Finances to support the ministry. God is the owner of it all, and we strive to be faithful stewards.
- Safety, especially for Linda and James. Recently, a 'mad man' tried to attack Linda as she was getting the mail in town. James was great and kept an eye on his mom – promising he would never let anyone take her away!
- God's provision for David and Kedar to have the wisdom and courage to be the leader He has called them to be.
- Provision for a couple's team of 12 coming in April to serve in the ministry and in the local community.

Finally, we thank our two daughters, son-in-law Matt, and our dear grandson for your continued support of us here in Jamaica. Jennifer was able to spend two weeks with us at Christmas. She has two more quarters until she completes her Master of Social Work at the University of Washington. We pray that she is able to line up a job before her graduation in June.

Danielle, Matt, and baby Wyatt will be here for three weeks in January. Matt will be helping with the boys, and will also build some furniture. Danielle will be sharing their sweet 14 month old boy with us. We look forward to having precious time with him!

We are very grateful to you, our family, friends, and supporters, for every prayer and financial gift you have given to make this ministry a success. We pray for you and your families that you will reap God's richest blessings in 2010.

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Hebrews 12:1b, 2a: "Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith."

In His Love,
Jay, Linda and James



CHRISTMAS DAY 2009



**JENNIFER SHARING HER
GINGERBREAD HOUSE!**

