

CWM October 25, 2009 Update

Meet our newest Cool Water Ministries young man. Pictures from 2004 and 2009 are attached.

This month, we'll introduce you to Seven Brown (the young man mentioned in Sept. 17 update) who came to us on September 28th. He was born in January, 1991, in Spanish Town. He has never known his family, and has spent his 18 years in seven different children's homes across the island.

We first met Steven in 2003, when he was placed at Mt. Olivet Boys' Home. He was Jay's shadow, when we took movies and snacks up to the home, and did weekly devotions and art projects with the 40 plus boys.

Steven wrote us two letters in 2004-5; these excerpts give you just a glimpse of him, as we saved his letters. In his own words: *"I love you. I hope you are well. The boys are hoping that you come to our home and pray for us. We are praying for you as well. I don't have no family, and I wish you come and visit the home. God bless you and keep you, Steven Ackeno Brown." (December, 2004).* *"I would like to say thank you very much, for all the thing that you and your wife have give me and the boys. I love all the wonderful things that you have share with me and the boys. I would like to come in the program in next four years. I love your family and your friends. I want to say thank you and I want to live with someone like you." (June, 2005).*

After Cool Water Ministries began in 2005, we lost track of Steven, and eventually, his life took a turn for the worse. In March, 2008, he and several of the boys were accused of destroying property at the home. He was put in jail for six months as a 17 year old. When he was released from jail, he spent the next three months in five different children's homes and places of safety (basically prisons for boys). He then lived and worked for a man for about \$5 a week. He had to buy his own food out of his pay. He was recently kicked out of this house after a dispute, and ended up living on the streets of Mandeville, until we received a phone call from Steven on September 25th. He moved in less than a week later, and is doing very well. When he first came, he was barely able to speak, thin and undernourished, and completely broken in spirit. He appears to be healing, getting his color back, and is beginning to speak up and smile. Steven thought he was diagnosed with diabetes, but after frequent blood sugar testing, he appears to be healthy.

A week after being here at CWM, he told David, our intern, that this was the first time in his life that he has ever felt like part of a family. While at CWM, he hopes to improve his behavior, learn how to deal with people, and would like to become better than his family. Steven seems very bright and dreams of being a teacher some day. His interests are social studies, reading, math, learning, gardening, sports and drawing.

In my quiet time earlier this month, several scriptures jumped off the page to me, regarding where we are in relation to Cool Water Ministries. I read Galatians 6:1, and was encouraged that *"we are to gently and humbly help our boys back onto the right path,"* and then Galatians 6:7 said: *"You will **always** harvest what you plant"*. I also read in Proverbs 31:8, *"that we are to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; and to help those who have been crushed*

and are helpless.” As I read these passages, I was encouraged by God that the seeds we planted over 4 years ago, are bearing fruit today.

Steven, like many young boys in Jamaica, has been abandoned, abused, and neglected by his family and society. He has been homeless, and knows what it's like to be truly hungry. We pray that Cool Water Ministry will be a place of refuge and restoration, where he will experience God's unfailing love and mercy. He is on the path to becoming the man of God that He can and should become. Please pray for him and others to *“Let God transform them into a new person by changing the way they think.” Romans 12:2*

Blessings,
Linda and Jay Cruze

Matthew 10:42: “This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice.”





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