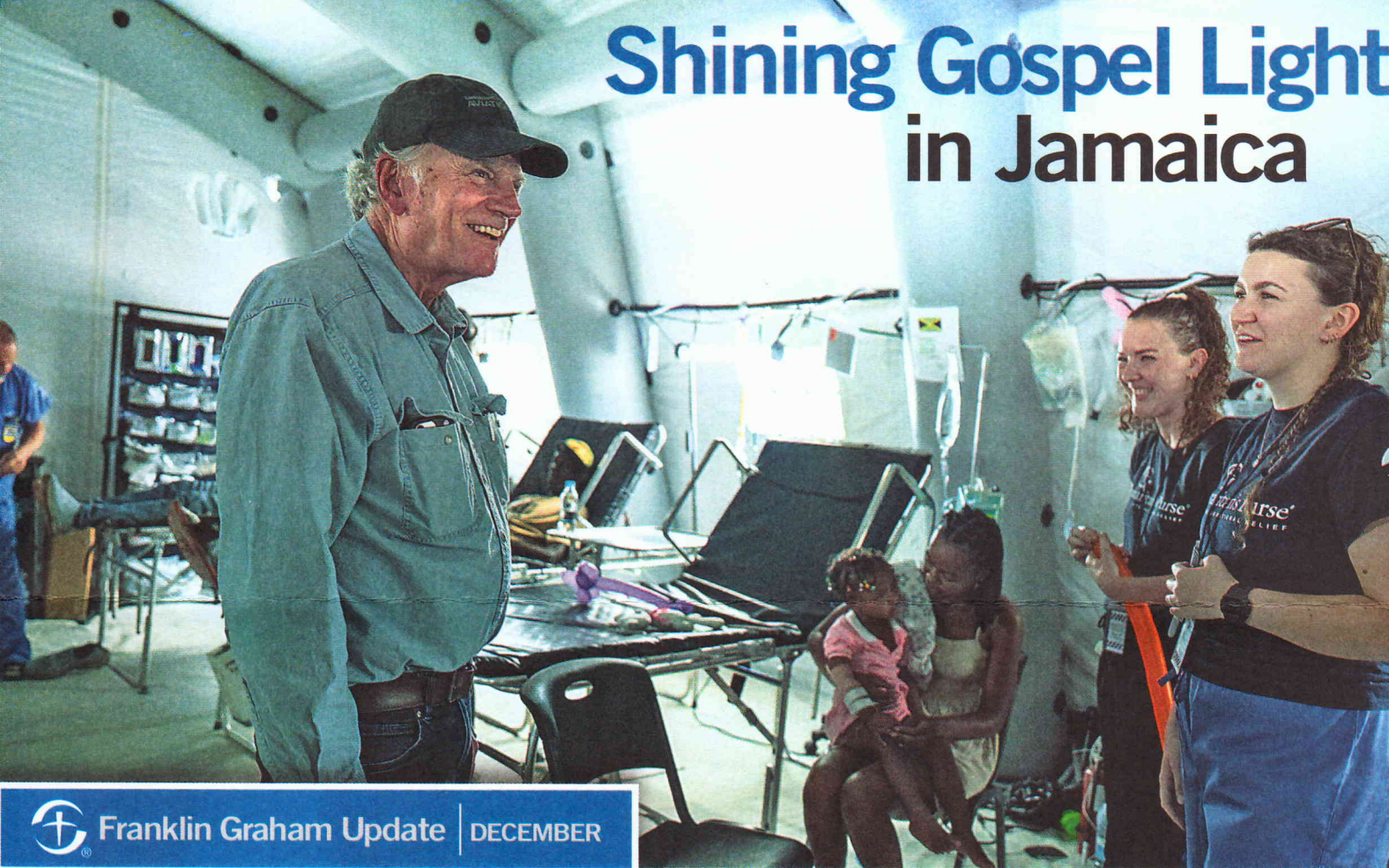


# Shining Gospel Light in Jamaica



Franklin Graham Update | DECEMBER

## DEAR FRIEND,

**JUST GOT BACK FROM JAMAICA** where our teams continue to bring relief to hurting people in the wake of Hurricane Melissa. The storm may have passed, but the damage it left is horrible.

In Black River, near where the deadly Category 5 storm made landfall, we've set up an Emergency Field Hospital. The local medical facility there was destroyed by the hurricane, so people had nowhere to turn. We've treated over 2,500 patients and performed more than 100 surgeries.

Our team spent weeks caring for one patient, Latonia (*at right*), who came to us with a badly infected foot that had to be amputated. She was grateful, saying, "If this hospital and the people abroad never come to help, we will be dead like dogs. Lot of people will be dying cause we don't have nowhere to go."

We also used our helicopters to conduct a mobile medical response. We cared for more than 1,200 people—all of whom were in locations isolated by blocked roads and not easily accessible in any other way. This cut down on hours of travel time and allowed us to concentrate on quickly providing medical care. Our helicopters also helped with assessments and cargo movement; in total we completed more than 150 trips.

In addition, we've set up several community water filtration systems and a reverse osmosis system, while also distributing hygiene kits, solar lights, shelter tarp, Bibles, and more. Our tarps are keeping the rain off families—one







**IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS:** Liberty University leaders and students traveled to Jamaica to deliver Operation Christmas Child gifts to boys and girls in need.

man I met was so thankful to have his roof tarped and said it was the first dry night he had spent since the hurricane weeks ago! More than 300 Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) members have been on the ground during this response, and we've helped more than 25,000 families.

I thank God for our incredible team serving in Jamaica, and it was good to spend time with them. They have come from all around the world to serve with Samaritan's Purse in Jesus' Name. Doctors, nurses, logisticians, water specialists, procurement experts, aviation team members, and more—all working hand in glove to bring help in this time of crisis.

Jamaica reports 1,600 churches on an island roughly the size of Connecticut—that's a church almost every 2.5 square miles! We have been supporting numerous congregations by providing grants for members in crisis and by offering a full range of relief supplies. The partnerships are critical as they serve as hubs of outreach in their community, a light shining on a hill.

Since 1998, we've been working with churches across the island to distribute Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. In total, well over 1 million gifts have been given to children in need in Jesus' Name.

Recently, my son Edward went to Jamaica aboard our DC-8 aircraft packed with 9,000 shoebox gifts. He was joined by Pastor Jonathan Falwell, Liberty University President Dondi Costin, Liberty students, and journalist Greta Van Susteren who was filming a special for Newsmax to air on Christmas Day at 4 p.m. ET. They helped one of our church partners in Black River distribute gift-filled boxes to the delight of boys and girls who've seen much suffering this fall. Not only did the children hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at these outreach events, they were also invited to join *The Greatest Journey*, our 12-lesson discipleship class for shoebox recipients. They will learn more about Jesus, including how to follow Him and share Him with their friends. Since 2009, more than 160,000 students have gone through the course on the island. We praise God for the tens of thousands of boys and girls who've come to know Christ as Savior in Jamaica through Operation Christmas Child.

The needs are still great in Jamaica. Would you join me in praying for families who have lost so much and are trying to get back on their feet again?

Edward's trip marked the last mission of our remarkable DC-8 aircraft, revived from a "boneyard" in New Mexico about 10 years ago. The plane, which came off the assembly line on Christmas Eve in 1968, flew 219 missions for us, hauling over 9 million pounds of cargo. Some of its highlights included flying our Emergency Field Hospital to Myanmar, Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, Ecuador, and Italy. In response to wars,





earthquakes, disease, and more, this plane helped us answer the call to run to the fire to help people in Jesus' Name. A new-to-us 767 airplane has replaced it, allowing us to bring even more relief more quickly when disaster strikes. The DC-8 will be on display at Liberty's School of Aeronautics in Lynchburg, Virginia.

## Home for Christmas

Earlier in December, I helped dedicate a new home built by Samaritan's Purse for a couple in Minneapolis, North Carolina. Most people have never even heard of this small community of 200 people up in the northwestern mountains of the state.

After Hurricane Helene rolled through in 2024, Bob and Edwina Tatum felt abandoned. The home where they had lived for 46 years, their barn, horses—everything they owned except for their two dogs—were destroyed by the deadly storm. Even months later, no one was helping them. They had given up hope.

I heard their story one night on the local news and knew Samaritan's Purse could build them a new home. I called some key staff members to get the ball rolling. The Tatums were thrilled when they got a call from us explaining that we would rebuild to their specs.

"I was shocked," Bob said. "When I hung up, I looked at Edwina and she looked at me and I just said, 'Ain't God good?'"

It was a pleasure to see them back in a new home for Christmas!

A few days later, I traveled to eastern Kentucky where we've rebuilt a community of 18 new homes for flood survivors. Paul Johnson, the first homeowner I met, was taken off a lung transplant list when he lost his home and had to move into an RV. Now that he's back in a house, he can get back on the organ transplant list!

After flooding ruined their house, Rickey and Larissa Casebolt and their daughters had nowhere to live other than a four-bedroom apartment set up for fellow survivors. Twenty-three people were living in that cramped space. The Casebolts were incredibly relieved to receive a new home from us. "Last night, when we went to sleep, we didn't have to worry about people fighting outside, waking us up in the middle of the night," Larissa said the morning after they moved in. "This is just amazing. And I don't have to worry about my daughters' safety. When you walk in here you can feel the presence of God. There are just no words."



**NOT FORGOTTEN:** Samaritan's Purse rebuilt a home for the Tatums after their house was swept away by Hurricane Helene.



**THE MIGHTY DC-8:** Our workhorse plane recently completed its final mission, delivering shoebox gifts to Jamaica.



God has provided these homes, and we give Him all the glory. We want this subdivision to be a beacon of light that reminds each one of these families how much God loves and cares for them.

As we spend Christmas with family and friends this year, let's proclaim to everyone what Jesus said in John 8:12: *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* This is worth celebrating!

Sincerely,



Franklin Graham



**DEDICATED TO GOD'S GLORY:** We gathered to pray for Paul Johnson as he moved into his new home.



## WAYS YOU CAN **HELP**

### ■ PRAY

Please pray for children and their families to come to Christ through the ministry of Operation Christmas Child in Jamaica and around the world. Pray also for our continuing relief work in Jamaica.

### ■ HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF

Samaritan's Purse is helping in Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa. We've treated more than 3,000 patients through our medical response. Multiple airlifts have carried relief to the island, including community water systems, solar lights, hygiene kits, and shelter tarps.

### ■ OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Samaritan's Purse is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with millions of children in more than 100 countries each year. Your \$10 donation per Operation Christmas Child shoebox provides for processing and shipping, as well as ministry partner training and Gospel materials.

### ■ U.S. DISASTER RELIEF & REBUILD

Your gift equips us to respond to natural disasters across our nation. Staff and volunteer teams help hurting homeowners clean up and start over. Wherever we go, we share the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After major storms, we often stay behind to rebuild houses for people in need.

### ■ WHERE MOST NEEDED

Samaritan's Purse works in Jesus' Name to help victims of disaster, disease, famine, poverty, and war. Your gift to "Where Most Needed" equips us with the resources—including personnel, materials, supporting services, and more—to fulfill our mission of relief and evangelism.



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All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Samaritan's Purse has complete control over the use of all donated funds. Our Board-approved policy is that all gifts designated for a specific project be applied to that project, with up to 10 percent used for administrative and fundraising expenses. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need. It is our policy to meet the needs God lays before us, so that Christ is lifted up and the Gospel advanced. Samaritan's Purse is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

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