

**John & Tammy
Cooley**

Jamaica

January 2025 “Short-Term Missions Opportunity” cooleys2jamaica@gmail.com

Dear Ministry Partners,

We are into 2025, and once again the Lord is blessing. Tammy and I are surprisingly encouraged by a very loving spirit, an eagerness to hear the word, a revived attendance, and more fellowship with members than we have ever had in the past. A brief window of internal conflict has resulted in an unusual openness.

Though we would still consider Pastor Karls’ family being made whole so that he could potentially pastor in the future, whether at Villa Road or elsewhere, ideal, it looks like the time has come for us to start thinking in a new direction for the church’s next pastor. The good news is that Karl and his kids are being very faithful and supportive, and seem happier to be at church than we have ever seen them.

That said, while the congregation is very happy with the direction in which we are now headed, they are looking for risk aversion in the selection of the church’s next pastor. So, we are looking for a motivated and well-trained couple with a capacity for teaching both adults and children, adapting to life in a developing country, intentionally reaching out to make friends, and loving and discipling a congregation with an attendance in the 20s, to commit to Jamaica for 2-3 years to lead the church with the goal of replacing themselves before leaving it with either a Jamaican pastor or, if necessary, another short-term interim pastor.

Personal support, whether missionary support, or personal retirement, would be necessary and the church has come to expect expository preaching/teaching. This would be a great post-retirement or missionary internship opportunity, or maybe even a mission project for a church with the human and financial resources to pull it off.

The church has a good-sized house attached to it that, with a little more TLC, would be ideal for a short-term couple to live in who would need only to contribute for utilities, provide their own food, and transportation. Living by taxi, especially given that the former pastor is a very supportive taxi driver, and the couple would be living on the grounds, would be cost-effective. Mandeville is not an extremely large town, and getting around is rather simple. Tammy and I are walking many places ourselves right now.

Tammy and I are planning to be here until the end of December 2025, so there is about ten months ahead of us for a potential interim couple to make a visit, or even to make a move while we are still here, so that we could accommodate a smooth transition. We believe the church is not just worth preserving, but that it has real potential with uninterrupted stable leadership over a period of several years.

Please contact us at cooleys2jamaica@gmail.com if you think the Lord could be leading you in that direction. If you are not already in vocational ministry, please share your desire with your pastor first, and then contact us through him.

Please pray that the Lord would make an obvious match between this need and the right couple.

Thank you for investing in the work in Jamaica!

John & Tammy Cooley, Jamaica