

**Unprecedented devastation at the Jamaican, Treasure Beach Christian Dental Society Helping Hands Dental Clinic from Hurricane Melissa. Pastor Rowe, although overwhelmed, was full of gratitude that, “God spared the lives of those around us, reflecting that these are just things, but we have our life and better yet, eternal life!”**



Pastor Rowe's Church with the Dental Clinic on the Left

The Christian Dental Society and the Christian Medical and Dental Associations members have been taking dental student mission trips to Treasure Beach, Jamaica for 21 years. Dr. Jim Carney came alongside Pastor Rowe to build an addition on to the local church to establish an 18-chair fixed/mobile dental clinic. Routinely, there are 10-plus student mission trips there each year to mentor dental students and others towards Christian service and to provide needed dental care to patients, while sharing and living out the Gospel message. The University of Florida Dental School, the 12<sup>th</sup> student mission trip in 2025, had 51 participants and was canceled due to the hurricane. Two more trips are planned before the end of the year.

Hurricane Melissa was reported to be one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the Atlantic and made landfall right through Treasure Beach where the clinic was located. The torrential rain and 185 mph winds ripped off rooftops, caused significant flooding, and plunged communities into despair.



Pastor Rowe's House, next to the Church and Clinic

This quote came from Pastor Rowe, who helps coordinate the mission and lives next to the church and dental clinic, “We are devastated! Everything is down, and wind and rain are coming from all directions. We still can’t go outside because of the flying debris. We had to untie the goats and pigs from the trees since the trees would fall and kill them. The animals retreated to a nearby cave. People are taking shelter in the church. The power is out. Rolston’s cook shop roof blew off. We were continually sweeping the water from the house. Water was coming in from the flooded street as well. Flying metal roofing smashed the window of our car and the wind tore off the bumper. Many of the chickens, in the severely damaged chicken coop drowned from the water.”

Pastor Rowe and her family are in dire need of help. God put these dear people in our path, and so many have been richly blessed by this 21-year association. It is estimated that it will take at least \$50,000 to clean up, repair, and rebuild their house, food shop, church, school, and dental clinic, as well as provide aid for the local community.

The Christian Dental Society and Dr. Jim Carney have set up a fund to help the local community and Pastor Rowe. If you feel led to contribute, you can send a tax-deductible check (practice owners can save an additional 15% from Social Security and Medicare taxes if the check comes from a business) designated to “Rowe Hurricane Relief Fund” directly to the:

Christian Dental Society; PO Box 1005 in Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (with no fees).

Or you can link directly to a gofundme account designated to the Rowe Hurricane Relief Fund account at, <https://gofund.me/51214ed17> (which has a small admin fee).

We are reminded of Romans 12:12-13 where we are to: “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need . . .” This seems to fit perfectly with Pastor Rowe’s God-centered, positive attitude. When asked how she is doing and how they are handling it all, she said, “We can’t fret about this, only turn it over to the One who saves!”