

Name: Phillip McKnight



Country: Jamaica

Sector: Environment





Country Information

What is the climate and geography like?

Tropical , currently in severe drought. I live in a flood plain of the Yallahs River that dried up 10 years ago and is now intermittently flowing. I am a 20 minute walk to the Caribbean Sea and live In the foothills of the blue mountains.

What is the population of your site?

400 people

Describe your living arrangements.

Cement, one story home that I share with a woman who is 60 years old.



Culture

What do people wear?

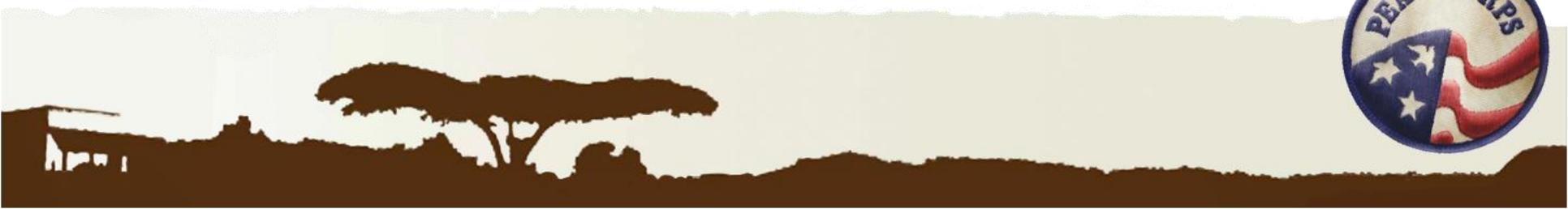
Men usually wear pants, and men's shirts can vary from a tank top to a dress shirt. Women wear dresses and skirts. The colors worn are generally very bright!

What is the food like?

The food is usually a meat, a carbohydrate , and a raw vegetable. For example, stewed chicken, Rice and peas and are shredded cabbage and carrot .

What is the main religion?

Christianity



Culture

What holidays do people celebrate?

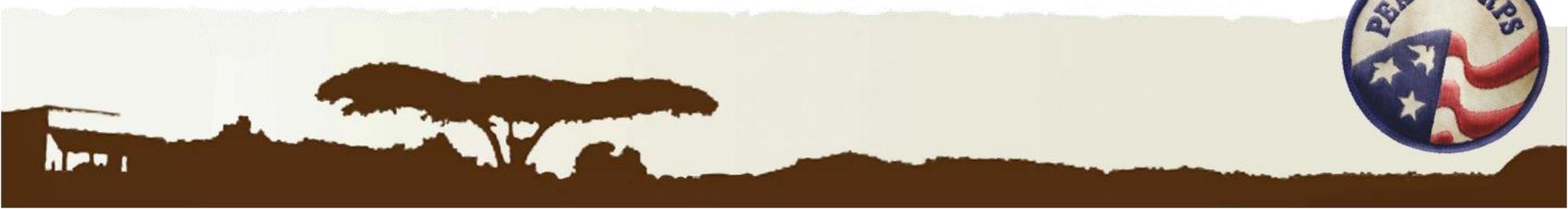
Christmas is the largest celebrated

Are there any interesting customs or traditions?

After a person dies, some Jamaicans hold a Kumina to celebrate the persons life. People beat on drums, dance around, and catch the spirit of the dead person!

How does transportation work?

Small busses operate on larger routes and taxis operate on less used roads. Public transport is widely used.



Work

What is your primary project?

Improving quality of life through promoting sustainable environmental practices. Specifically I work on school gardens, and lead community workshops to help the community meet it's basic needs : access to water and Jobs!

What are your secondary projects?

Initiating a reading club and music club.

What has been your biggest success?

Initiating a job skills training that trains interested community members in basic professionalism training.

What has been your biggest setback? Challenges recruiting students for the job skills training.



Fun Facts

What is your favorite moment in your service so far?

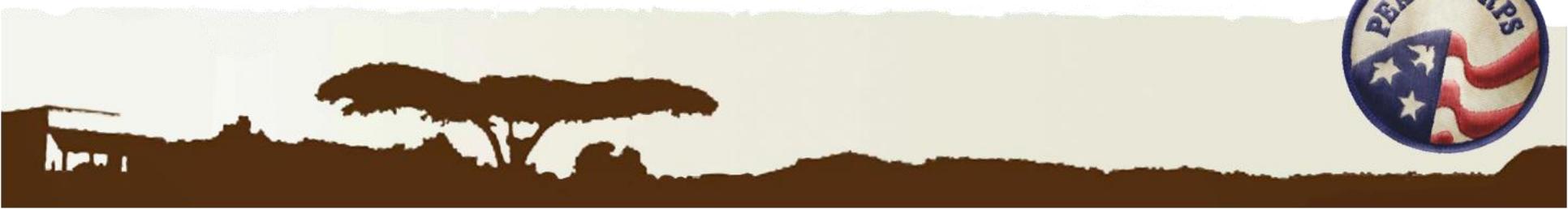
As a musician, my favorite moments have been learning, sharing, and playing music with the many musicians in my community.

What is the strangest thing that has happened to you as a Volunteer?

Being asked to give awards to participants who had completed a 3 day workshop held by the Jamaican government.

What is your favorite part of being a Peace Corps Volunteer?

Cross cultural understanding is encouraged and that I am encouraged to learn new skills such as cooking!



Fun Facts

What is your favorite word or phrase in the local language?

Mi gi tanks fi life ! - I am thankful for my life !

What are things that you've found that are done better in your host country than America?

Taking time and not rushing through daily activities.

What aspects of your host country do you wish you could bring back to America?

The importance of family and extended family relationships, as well as the importance of cooking and sharing a meal.

