

# JNBS aids prep school

EVERYTHING IS back to normal at the 46-year-old Campbell's Castle Preparatory School in south Manchester, and the children and teachers are happy, thanks to a \$1 million donation by the Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) Foundation, as part of its Rural Development Programme.

The school, nestled in the quiet community of Campbell's Castle, and run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was extensively damaged during Hurricane Ivan last September. It lost its entire roof, teaching materials and most of the books in the library.

"We had to house the students in our church hall after the hurricane, but with Jamaica National's generous contribution we were able to replace the roof in January. Also, we were able to upgrade our bathroom facilities from pit latrines to flushable toilets, along with the necessary infrastructure," said Pastor Jeff Jefferson, chairman of the school's board.

## PROJECTS

Campbell's Castle Preparatory School is one of over 40 projects undertaken by the JN Foundation. Formed in July 1990, the foundation has funded projects in the areas of education, health, housing and inner-city development and has given assistance to various organisations for refurbishing and building initiatives, among others.

The foundation's recent undertakings include the United States Agency for International Development/JNBS Foundation Hurricane Ivan Grant/Loan Project, where these organisations were able to bring relief and assistance to over 1,900 persons. Other projects that have benefited include the Ministry of Health's Geographic Information System Project and the University of the West Indies' Tropical



CONTRIBUTED

Alvin Barnes (left), treasurer and maintenance manager at the Campbell's Castle Preparatory School, and Aston Barnes, a director of the JN Small Business Loans Limited, stand in front of the school. In the background is a part of the newly-constructed roof.

Medicine Research Institute (TMRI), towards the construction of a centre to house the TMRI on the grounds of the University Hospital of the West Indies.

The Campbell's Castle Preparatory School chairman said the school was grateful for the assistance from the foundation. "We're happy that they have seen it fit to come on board with us as partners in sharing education to this rural community. We have been in existence since 1959 and we have been serving this community faithfully. Our philosophy is driven by values and attitudes," he noted.

Pastor Jefferson said the school, which has a student population of 60 and a staff complement of five, is looking forward to

expanding its services to the community by establishing an adult continuing education programme, so that parents in the community could continue to upgrade themselves in different areas.

"We are also looking at implementing a skills training programme where we will introduce information technology to the Campbell's Castle community. We have great plans for the school and look forward to Jamaica National being involved with us," Pastor Jefferson stated.

Mary Allen, JNBS executive with responsibility for the JN Foundation, said: "We are very happy that we are in a position to assist organisations which will support the long-term developmental needs of rural communities."