

Lakeside PCA Mission Trip 2014

BELIZE TEAM REPORT

"Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation..." Mark 16:15



Sunday evening, July 20, 2014 - Ariel Bealer wrote:

"Church Family,

Thank you for the plethora of prayers sending us on our way! It was only by the grace of God that we all managed to get on our flight Saturday morning. We arrived in Belize at 11:20 a.m. Saturday and were greeted by our dear friend, Philip Ajamian. The 2 hour bus ride to our hotel was uneventful; in fact almost everyone slept the whole time! Some of the Mt. Sinai PCB church members prepared dinner for us and it was so good to see them again.

Sunday morning we worshiped with our brothers and sisters at Mt. Sinai PCB. What a blessing to be able to glorify the same God even in our different languages and different styles. We were pleased to see some new members at the church and are looking forward to getting to know them throughout the week.

The plan is for Mon-Thurs we will be constructing a portion of a fence, visiting people in the village, and doing a 2 hr VBS.

Prayer Requests: That we will stay hydrated and healthy - it's hotter than last year and a lot of our work is in the sun. That we will be rested at the hotel - some of us don't have AC or working showers and sleep was only 'ok' last night. That we will be able to speak God's truth and witness to the people in Xaibe, both the church members and the other villagers we will meet. And that God will bring children to VBS who need to hear the Gospel."

Monday evening, July 21, 2014 - Ariel Bealer wrote:

"The team had a long but fulfilling day, our first 'work day' of the week. We started construction at 8 a.m. by hauling blocks across the lot, mixing up a batch of cement real quick, and laying down the block to continue the fence we started last year (for those on last year's team - the church members had previously dug the ditch for us!)

We lay both layers of block needed across the back of the lot, ie the team worked VERY hard in hotter than usual temps and direct sunlight. What troopers! God protected us from any sun damage or dehydration today.

VBS was like cool water to the soul! We were thrilled to recognize almost every single kid who came today. I counted about 50 kids in attendance today, and most of them over 6. Our theme verse is John 14:6 - Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Please pray that these children and their parents will come to recognize and believe that Jesus IS the only way, truth, and life. Pray that we will continue to work hard and stay healthy during our construction project. Ask that God will give us courage and boldness to speak His word to everyone we come in contact with."

Wednesday evening, July 23, 2014 - Ariel Bealer wrote:

"I did not get an e-mail sent out yesterday because right at the end of the day a beautiful thunderstorm blew in followed by an hour of rain and no electricity! We praised God for the rain and the quick return of the electricity, then went to bed.

On our second and third days of construction we continued to find ourselves working faster than the Belizeans anticipated. The end result is that no one has been over-heated, dehydrated, or sick from exhaustion! We have finished the back portion of the fence and will stretch chain link then seal the last side tomorrow - maybe even before lunch!

At VBS we shared the Gospel through lessons around our theme verse, John 14:6, with about 50-60 children. One of the biggest blessings and sources of enjoyment has been continuing relationships. A great many of the children recognize us from the last two years and have opened up much faster than previously. The same could be said of the church members. It is wonderful to see us mix as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

We have one more day of construction and one more opportunity to plant the Good News in the children. Please pray for our continued safety and health, as well as ability to sleep! We also ask that you lift up all the children at VBS, that God will open their eyes to understand that He is the way, truth, and life, and that they will be moved to continue to attend church after we leave.

Thank you for your support and prayers! We truly appreciate knowing we are being held up by our loved ones at home and cannot wait to share with you on Sunday!"

Thursday evening, July 24, 2014 - Ariel Bealer wrote:

"Today was our last day working with the church in Xaibe. We finished cementing the edge of the fence before lunch and leisurely cleaned up and fellowshiped with the church members. After lunch we split into groups and went out into the community to visit with people the church had been witnessing to. We all had different experiences, but were blessed to be able to give the Xaibe church members another reason to visit their neighbors and talk about Christ.

At VBS we had over 70 children in attendance ranging from ages 2 - 14. We hadn't told the kids ahead of time, but today gave candy to anyone who could say the memory verse and it was amazing how many children had memorized it 'just because' before a reward was offered. It was bittersweet, as always, to say good-bye. The time with the children always goes by too fast.

One more day in beautiful Belize before we head back! We hope you are there Sunday when we share more about our personal experiences and favorite memories."

Friday evening, July 25, 2014 - Ariel Bealer wrote:

"Our last day in Belize was quite the experience! We woke at 6 to board a boat at 7 for our day off snorkeling trip. The 2 hour boat ride built up anticipation and the snorkeling trip was AMAZING. Everyone was happy and red (but not too red). We saw beautiful fish and coral and had fun with some nurse sharks. the view of the ocean from our lunch spot was breathtaking.

We aaaaalmost didn't make it on the boat ride back (no one was complaining over the idea of having to stay an extra day), but Philip made us get on. One last dinner made by the church members from Xaibe and lots of hugs and good-byes for now.

Parents (and anyone else who'd like to know) our flight should land at 4:30, but remember it usually takes us at least an hour to get through customs. We can't wait to see you all!"