



News from the ministry of John and Mel Bjorgen serving with the Belize Mission and Retreat.

thebjorgens

House to House

Every day they spent time in the temple and in one home after another. They never stopped teaching and telling the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. Acts 5:42 CEV

May ushered in changes for us in regards to some of the ministry that we do in the village. After his wedding, Kenny, our pastor began discussions with us about the churches new calendar year. We were discussing how we can get 20 new members of the church by the end of the calendar year. He came up with the idea of visiting from house to house.

While this may seem like a simple task that has been done before, sometimes the simplest ideas are the ones that work the best. In Belizean culture, house visits are an everyday thing. they don't have to call ahead, they don't pencil visitors in, or plan for visitors a week in advance. Never mind the state of their house or if they are hanging laundry; when a person visits, the to-do list gets set aside or the visitor just works and talks alongside them. It is simple to make visits here and what is more, we are welcome.



John and I purchased a bike so that we could ride around the village instead of rolling up in a vehicle. When we began to bike around the village with Ellis in a baby seat and Evangeline on the middle bars of John's bike, we were greeted throughout the village with smiles. They saw us differently, we felt. For those moments on the bike we were villagers, and that felt very good. Kenny and Una and Shannon and Amanda rode alongside us as well. Up to the first house we came. We were there mostly for support for Kenny as we think it very important for him to do most of the

talking, especially since we aren't conversant in Kriol yet. He is doing a wonderful job speaking the truth into the villagers lives. It is a privilege to hear him talk to them. He has no inhibitions, and seems fearless as speaks to the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is honest and yet loving at the same time.

We think his message has been received well. Yet there is a disconnect here between people KNOWING what is right and actually DOING what is right. We are all committed to bridging that gap and it is going to take a lot of work and prayer; but that is why we are here. THIS is why God brought us here for such a time as this. God wants to grow the small church in the village. He desires it to be healthy and functioning, and His desires are our desires. We are so happy to be visiting the houses in the village, not just to help Kenny but it also gives us a sense of community with the villagers.

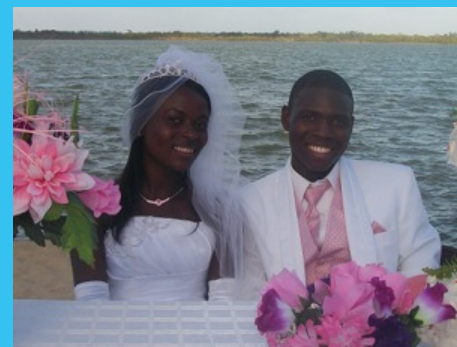
The new calendar church year also began a new ladies softball ministry as well as ideas about what we can do as a church for the coming Christmas and Easter celebrations. We noticed that the only activities offered on the days preceding and on those holidays are activities that are not honoring to the the Lord. This year will be different because alternative activities will be planned by the church so everyone can have a good time and stay out of trouble.

Make no mistake folks, God is working in the little village of Gales point. Keep praying for us and the pastors!

Wedding Celebrations!



Congratulations to Shannon and Amanda Welch, who were married on March 15th 2011. Shannon is the deacon at Galilee Gospel Chapel.



Congratulations to Pastor Kenny and Una Welch married on April 9th, 2011.

Because you give:

- 1 Woman became a Christian
- 2 Men became Christians
- 4 impromptu baptisms happened one night after we spoke about obedience to the Lord

For more pictures of our family check out our blog at www.thebjorgens.net.

TeamWork

Summer means teams

visiting to do ministry at a much higher frequency than usual. This summer was no exception with six short-term teams in nine weeks.

A big part of why we are here is to help raise up the next generation of cross-cultural missionaries to go into all the world. Almost all long-term missionaries that are currently being deployed started out by being involved in one or more short-term mission teams. Because of this, we spend a lot of time in prayer that God will give us discernment and reveal to us those that he has gifted and is calling toward

cross-cultural ministry. We seek to encourage them, answer their questions, mentor them, counsel them, give them direction as to where to go from here. We also work at challenging and educating our teams with a series of talks. Current topics range from "Why being a student of culture is important to reach the lost" to "Jonah, the reluctant missionary: the importance of obedience to the missionary call."

We began this summer with a group from the Exchange, a singles ministry of Woodridge Church in the Minneapolis area. This group of twenty-five were a huge blessing to the village and to our ministry at the base. They replaced half of the roof on the main lodge, repaired our vehicles, built a house in the village for a well-deserving couple, did home visits, but on a variety show for the village, threw a wedding shower for Una and Amanda and more! This group was especially hard to say goodbye to because we had made friendships with so many of them and connected on a deeper personal level in such a short time.

Next came a youth team from CrossPoint Community Church in Modesto, CA. This group was made up of mostly graduating seniors and college freshman who showed maturity and leadership potential. They did an amazing job of being well prepared and really connecting with the children in our village and loving them. This group seemed especially

open and supportive to growing together and honestly searching for what God could teach them.

Following in their footsteps were two more youth teams, also from Woodridge Church. Despite being from the same youth group, each team was very different in personality and unique. Each of these teams also worked with

the children in our village. Between these three groups and church camp this month, the children from our village were able to sit under biblical teaching and love almost their entire break from school. We hope that they will continue to practice the biblical principles they were taught and exercise the

scriptures they memorized.

Both of these youth teams produced members that expressed that God was calling them into long-term cross-cultural ministry. How exciting!

We're looking forward to our last two groups this next week and are excited to see our Father continue to work in the lives of the



How to Pray

Pray for continued health for our family.

Pray for continued healing for Vera's foot and Basil's mom who is in the hospital.

Pray for our village visitations that God will bless the time we spend with them and continue to anoint Kenny with the words he needs to reach the people.

Pray that God will grant us wisdom and discernment as we continue doing ministry here.

Pray that God will continue to bless the short-term ministry at the Belize Mission and Retreat.

Please continue to pray for a car to meet our growing family needs.

Looking Ahead...

Aug. 5th-12th: Woodridge MN, Men's team.

Aug. 17th-24th: Vacation! Don't call us...we'll call you... :-)

Sept. 25th: Mel's 30th Birthday

Oct. 13th- Ellis's 1st Birthday

Oct. 22nd-29th: Cornerstone Christian Fellowship team