

## Greetings from Belize

I am writing this just a few days before I take my annual leave, most of which will be spent back in the UK, returning to Belize by 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Over the past few months we have had numerous mission teams working with us throughout Belize, on our various projects and we are extremely grateful for all the assistance they bring. I know most of them go back feeling they have received (spiritually) more than they gave (physically), and so both partners are blessed. In total this year we have had over 20 different teams working with us, and many of these are committed to long term partnering, and are already planning their next visit.



**Please get in touch with us as soon as possible if you are considering Spring Break!**



On our biggest project, the high school construction in Belmopan, the progress is visible, and we are now above ground level! The total cost for building the school is over BZ\$ 1.2million, (US\$ 600,000; UK£ 400,000) so you can see what a leap of faith we have taken in starting the project. The need is great, with only enough high school places in the country

for around half of the teenage population. At the nearest high school to us in Belmopan, they have a shift system, to enable more students to attend. We hope to have the first intake of students in Sept 2012, but for that to become a reality we need some serious fundraising and hard labour! Many, many thanks to those who have already



Our own youth, while at summer camp, also helped with the construction!

Training some of our circuit youth coordinators to be trainers too.



contributed, and to those who are pledging continued support. We are also truly grateful for all the school supplies, painting and other assistance given around the country.

On the Youth and children's work side, we now have circuit youth coordinators in place in several circuits, and just completed a course for training trainers. We also continue with our leadership development and motivation, and we will be holding the

first meeting for the youth and children workers support network at the end of August.

June saw the usual round of primary and high school graduation ceremonies and also several confirmation services and the summer break in Belize would not be complete without our annual Methodist children's and youth camp; this year we went to Belmopan for the week; the theme for the camp was 'Building up the temple - What would Jesus do?' enabling us to think about decision making and commitment, and from the comments from

the participants, it was a great camp. One 11 year old, a regular camper, said it was the best camp ever! The youth spent a day assisting with the new school construction, while some of the younger children visited local church members, helping as necessary around the place, or just talking with those who don't get many visitors. Oh and they had lots of fun too!



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Some of the 300+ children who attended the Corozal VBS and sports camp, assisted by Lost Creek UMC

Many of our churches held Vacation Bible Schools for the local children, some assisted by visiting teams from the United Methodist Churches (UMC) in the USA. The biggest one was in Corozal where they had over 300 hundred children show up some days.

Everyone here is looking forward to September, not just because Belize will be celebrating 30 years of independence, but also because we will be receiving new staff members for the

Methodist Church; in Toledo, Rev Faux is 'superannuating' and they will receive a new minister, Rev Anthony Pothemont; Rev Elswith Clare returns to Belize following her training in Jamaica, and joins the Wesley circuit as a Deacon, and Rev Tanya Welcome, Deacon in training, comes to join the Ebenezer circuit for a year. The Ebenezer circuit will also have a UMC minister working with them for a year, Rev Jamie Williams, along with his wife, Lisa.

Please continue to hold in your prayers

- the children and youth of Belize, as well as those working with them, that all who attended the summer activities may continue to grow in God's love
- the Belmopan high school construction, that the funds materialise
- the new Methodist staff members coming to Belize, as well as those continuing in the work.

May God continue to bless each of you.

With love and prayers,



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