

# Greetings from Belize

## (well actually from England!)

I am writing this newsletter from my house in Leeds, England, where I am home on furlough (or long leave). It is spring here, and as the seasons are something I have missed in Belize, it is really good to see all the daffodils and buds on the trees. Thankfully, the temperatures are lovely and warm, with some beautiful sunny days.

So what news since my last newsletter?

Well the Belize/Honduras Annual District Conference took place in January, in Belize City, with a wonderful turnout at the weekend from



the children and youth. As well as the usual sports activities for the children and the Young Adults Social on the Saturday, we also had a Youth Gospel Fest for the teenagers on Saturday Evening, which was a great success, with several bands singing and playing, and our youth group from Roatan, who had travelled all the way by bus through Honduras and

Guatemala, also gave us an item.

The Conference Youth Service was a wonderful festival of praise and worship, with a moving message from our Deacon In Training, Sis Tanya Welcome, It was followed, as always, by the Youth Demonstration through the streets of Belize, and once again we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day!



Following on from previous work, and agreed to by our District Conference, we are now going ahead with rolling out child safeguarding and other training for all those working with children and young people in the Methodist Church, starting with those wishing to volunteer to help with the annual summer camps. Sessions started in February, and will

March 2012



continue throughout the coming year. We will also be developing policies and procedures for child safeguarding, at all levels within the Methodist Church in Belize / Honduras, and we are also working hard at improving our church schools and are in the process of getting the new curriculum in place, which was developed for and by the MCCA (Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas).

February and March have also been a busy time for those working with mission teams,

with construction on the High School continuing at Belmopan, the Youth Enhancement Services building completed, and medical and other teams working at various places in the country - and in Honduras too. In total we had at least 10 teams in 2 months! The visit by Rev Nials to Houston also developed relations with previous teams as well as making new links - keeping both Lisa and myself very busy with all the logistics and planning for later in the year. Lisa, and her husband Rev Jamie Williams, from the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church, are in Belize as individual volunteers, and are working with us for at least this year.

We are really grateful to all the teams who come to partner with us in our work, as well as for all those who stay at home and provide the support and funding for them - the team behind the team! I also want to say thanks to the British Methodist Church Fund for World Mission who gave us a grant of £30,000



towards the work on the High School - as you can see from the photo from early March, the work is progressing well.

I returned to England at the start of March for my furlough. Now this is normally taken at the end of a Mission Partner's term, but I still have another year to serve in Belize. The reason for the timing was to fit in with the process for candidating for ordination as a Deacon in the British Methodist Church. After a lot of work over the past year, and a series of interviews, I heard in late March that I have been accepted! I feel truly blessed to have been supported throughout by so many people. Thanks to you all for your prayers, but especially to my two church families of Lidgett Park and Ebenezer! Now comes the time of training and preparation, details of which are still to be worked out.

March 2012

As we come to the end of the Lent season, and prepare to celebrate afresh the joy of the Resurrection this Easter, I pray that we all may grow ever closer to God, and continue to share the love and grace of our Lord and Saviour with all those we meet along our journeys. Have a blessed Easter.

With love and prayers from

*Maggie Patchett*

Serving as a Mission Partner with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas Belize / Honduras District

*In England (until late May)*

*Tel 0113 2660564*

*Mobile 07432 300805*

*Home address*

*45 Roper Ave*

*Leeds LS8 1LG*

*In Belize*

*tel (501) 223 2610*

*Cell (501) 628 8004*

*Mailing Address*

*John and Charles Wesley Centre*

*75 Albert St. P O Box 212*

*Belize City, Belize, Central America*

*Email [mpatchett@gmail.com](mailto:mpatchett@gmail.com)*

*Skype Id mepatchett*

*US Magic Jack Number 804 490 7394.*

*Please let me know if you no longer want to receive this newsletter.*