

Greetings from Belize.

February in Belize was a cold month - well by Belize standards it was. We had 5 cold fronts come through, which is really unusual, and the temperature dropped to 15c - a record cold for here! March started off in the same way, but it is now starting to get hot again - a high of 35c was recorded 2 days ago! Personally I enjoyed the cooler weather, and wish it could be like that all the time!

February / March has been a time of visits for me - personal and workwise. My long-time friend Joy, came to visit from England for 3 weeks; she arrived on the same plane as several people from a UMC Church in Houston, who were here for a few days looking at possible projects, so the first few days of her visit were a bit hectic. Then as well as accompanying me to the south of the country to run some youth and children development workshops, I did manage to take a week off and together we visited some parts of Belize I had not been to before, and got in some very welcome rest and relaxation. We also had a team from Western N Carolina here in Belize for the first time, working on 2 of our projects close to Belize City.



The Roof going on Belama Church

Another person who arrived at the end of February is Caroline Ely. She is here on the Experience Exchange Programme (EEP) with the Methodist Church in Britain, and will be staying for 6 months, helping mainly with the children and youth work, but I'm sure her talents and enthusiasm will mean she gets involved in a whole range of things.

Rev Papouloute, our District President, who is Haitian, was able to visit Haiti in February, and as well visiting family, was able to attend some of the Haiti Methodist District Conference. Renise, his wife was not able to go, but please keep them both in your prayers. In Belize we have started an English Class for some Haitians living here, and Renise comes along to translate for me to make sure they can understand what I am trying to teach them.

We are continuing to run our circuit workshops for the Children and Youth work - developing local plans for each congregation to encourage more youth participation in the church, as well as looking at training needs for leaders, and we plan to run some leadership training after Easter.

Another workshop we had at the end of February was in website maintenance - we will



be launching the Belize / Honduras District Website in time for Aldersgate in May, and members from each congregation are being trained in how to keep their page up to date. So watch out for www.belhonmcca.org coming on line.

As it will be Easter by the time you are reading this I want to wish you all Blessed Easter. The photos are from last Palm Sunday here - Ebenezer Church has a joint parade with the



neighbouring Anglican Church at 8am on Palm Sunday each year.



Our Youth and Children's Commission Volunteers are also hard at work - they will be putting together over 1000 'Easter Bags' to be sold for BZ\$2 (about 60p) to the school children just before Easter as a means of raising much needed funds for the summer camp. And preparations are really getting underway for taking 20 young people from Belize / Honduras to the connexional Youth gathering - 'Encuentro' - in Trinidad in July. For more details see www.youthencuentro.org

Please keep the projects and people mentioned above in your prayers, giving thanks for all the developments we see taking place.

Easter Blessings to everyone, from Belize.

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