

THE PELICAN BRIEFS



The Official Newsletter of
Praying Pelican Missions

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Returns on the Investment

A short-term mission trip is always a major investment for a church—time, money, and resources. But, what's the return? Jennie Osterholt, senior high youth director at Morningside Lutheran Church (Sioux City, IA), took 24 of her youth and adults on a Praying Pelican Missions trip in August of 2005. *The Pelican Briefs* interviewed Jennie to get her perspective on the return on her church's investment.

Q: For your students, what was the overall highlight of their missions experience?

A: They loved the people they met in Belize and the relationships they built there.

Q: How would you describe the reactions of the students while in Belize?

A: Surprised, excited, humbled.

Q: How would you describe the reactions of the students after returning?

A: Thankful, changed, more eager to serve in other areas, less materialistic.

Q: How did the congregation as a whole react/support the students after returning?

A: Our church was thrilled about this trip. They prayed and gave financially (in many ways). They wanted to hear all about it when we returned. It was a great way for the youth to connect with the rest of the congregation.

Q: In your opinion, what types of students benefit greatest from a missions experience?

A: Jesus-lovers, doubters, givers, and takers—God will reach each of them uniquely.

Q: How has the missions experience encouraged your ministry as a youth director?

A: Mission service gets me back to the heart of Christ. It reminds me that I am most alive when I am serving others.

Q: What things have you changed in your ministry as a result?

A: I didn't change this, but it naturally happened. After our worship team came back from Belize, they formed a youth band. They are still going strong, leading worship for their peers. What an answer to years of prayer!

Q: Do you have any future plans for mission trips? If yes, why?

A: I never want to have a summer in youth ministry without a mission trip. This is where life-changing happens!

Q: Would you recommend that other youth groups take a mission



trip to Belize with Praying Pelican Missions?
A: Absolutely. It's a great experience. God will bless you.

Giving Thanks

We are reminded throughout Scripture to give thanks to God for who He is and all He has done for us. Praying Pelican Missions is especially thankful for how God has used the organization to bring glory to Him in Belize and beyond. Read on for some wonderful scriptural reminders to give thanks at Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. —1 Chronicles 16:34

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. —Psalm 100:4-5

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. —Isaiah 12:4

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. —1 Corinthians 15:57

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. —Philippians 4:6

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

Ministries Galore

A unique offering of a Praying Pelican Missions trip is the ability to choose the ministries that best fit your individual or group talents. Musically inclined? Participate in a church service. Handy around the house? Construction is always needed. Passionate about kids? Lead Vacation Bible School. Participants may choose from three to five of the following options.

Children's Ministry

This could include Vacation Bible School and/or such options as dramas, puppets, crafts, worship, interactive games, Bible stories, sports, or skits—whatever it takes to influence kids, encourage them, and tell them about Jesus' love for them!

Evangelism

Evangelism plans are formulated according to the needs and desires of the local people. Some options may include: handing out Bibles, door-to-door evangelism, street evangelism, evangelism explosion, or sharing the gospel through videos like the *Jesus Film*.

Service Projects

Work or service projects such as painting, cleanup, light construction, or whatever projects are needed are where we would serve. Service projects are a great opportunity to witness to the community by giving back to the people and country.

Church Ministry

This ministry involves preparing and leading one or two Sunday services. It could include giving a message, testimonies, music, drama, and any other appropriate church ministry. We may also participate in or lead a Sunday school class.

Adult Ministry

Parenting classes, Bible Studies, topical studies, leadership training, and many other options are available for those groups interested in reaching out to adults. Whatever training or experience you can prepare and bring to the adults of Belize will be much appreciated.

Sports Ministry

Football (soccer) and basketball are extremely popular in Belize. But Belizeans are open to learning about all kinds of sports. If you choose this option, you may decide what sports your group feels comfortable with and what sports your group would be willing to teach and participate in. Sports can be a great avenue for sharing the gospel.

Mercy Ministry

Visiting those in need has long been a staple of missionaries. Orphanages, hospitals, prisons, and senior citizen centers provide many opportunities to love people and share the gospel.

Medical Ministry

Many are the needs medically of the people in Belize. From basic medical needs, to dental work, to eye care, to physical therapy, if you have experts in your group and want to choose this ministry, we will arrange an opportunity to use your gifts and training.

Other Ministries

If you have an additional ministry tool or passion, please inquire about using this gift God has given you or your group to minister while you are in Belize. These ministries could include drama ministry, music ministry, clowning, juggling, or speaking.

Sign up for a Praying Pelican Missions trips today by visiting www.prayingpelicanmissions.org or calling (218) 310-3104!

Prayer Requests

Please pray that:

- We would be thankful for all the blessings God has given us
- Christian people in Belize would have a desire to share the Word of God with those who don't know Him
- Praying Pelican Missions staff would glorify God in all they do and say as well as through all their contacts with Belizeans
- God would begin preparing those teams planning a Praying Pelican Missions trip in 2006 for all they will see and do
- People would come to know Christ through the efforts of missionaries around the globe
- A desire to serve through short-term missions would rise up in churches across the nation

Wanted: Spring Breakers

Just a reminder: Praying Pelican Missions is leading a spring break mission trip to Belize during the week of March 25-April 1, 2006. Young adults and college students are invited to spend a week in the sun making an eternal difference for Christ. Pass the word on this great opportunity!

Spread the Good News

Do you know of a church or ministry desiring to use their God-given abilities to spread the Good News? If so, we ask you to spread the good news about Praying Pelican Missions! 2006 marketing materials are available for distribution, including postcards, brochures, and posters. Contact Praying Pelican Missions at info@prayingpelicanmissions.org or (218) 310-3104 to request materials for yourself and/or your church or ministry.

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