

THE PELICAN BRIEFS

The Official Newsletter of
Praying Pelican Missions

September 2006



Spectacular Summer...Continued!

The summer mission trip season is over, but the stories of changed lives continue to resonate as we marvel at all that God has done. Watch for two more mission trips in review in the October issue of *The Pelican Briefs*!

July 15-23

The FUEL student ministries team from Cathedral of Praise Church (Charleston, SC) brought 45 participants to Belize for a week of amazing ministry. Their targeted village was Ladyville where they worked with Victory Fellowship Church. Their various ministries included: planning and executing Vacation Bible School; planning and leading morning and evening Sunday services that included dramas, music, crafts, and puppets; painting the entire church inside and out; street evangelism in Ladyville and downtown Belize City every night; and visiting and performing dramas and music for two nursing homes and an orphanage as well as donating much-needed supplies during the visits.

One of many highlights was the ministry that occurred between the team and the people of Victory Fellowship Church as well as the residents of the nursing homes and orphanage. The group also felt supernaturally blessed by God to accomplish so much in a relatively short amount of time. Blessing the pastor and his congregation with the supplies the team had brought (e.g., puppet stage and puppets, curriculum, craft supplies, and salvation bracelets) was another highlight.

Shannon Billingsley, associate pastor of Cathedral of Praise Church, had this to say about the trip: "My faith was recharged, my heart jumpstarted, and my life redirected. Good job, Pelicans!"

Debra Malone, one of the coordinators of the trip, raved, "The Praying Pelican Missions team kept us on track to really 'squeeze' everything from the experience that we could. They fed us so well, lined up incredible accommodations, and even had us taken care of on our extra day on Caye Caulker!"

July 22-29

Thirty-one participants from Trinity Evangelical United Methodist Church of Upper Sandusky, OH, made Belize City their base for ministry in late July. Their various ministries included: street evangelism, ministry at an orphanage and nursing home, sports ministry (specifically basketball), and church ministry at Queen Street Baptist Church.

Leading 15 people to Christ and seeing the team grow as a result was a huge highlight. The orphanage visit was a blessing for the team in terms of spending time with the children and allowing the group to be spiritually broken. The street evangelism stretched the group immensely and taught them the importance of the process. Following the mission trip, Trinity Evangelical United Methodist Church started a small discipleship group in town where 12 people regularly attend.

David Wagner (age 16), a participant on the trip, had this to say: "This trip helped me to come out of my comfort zone and take a huge leap of faith."

Barb McColly (age 50), another participant, commented, "This trip served as a time to snuggle up closer to God and lean on Him for help. It reminds me that there is more to life than my normal day-to-day activities."

July 29-August 5

Hope Community Church from Raleigh, NC, served in the village of Sand Hill. Twelve participants participated in ministries that included Vacation Bible School, sports ministry, street evangelism, and painting/light construction.

Highlights were worshipping together with the Belizeans during a Wednesday night church service as well as the approachability of the Belizeans.

Jill Rouse (age 23), a participant on the trip, said, "It has been amazing to see God bring together such an amazing team. We have each brought assets to the trip, and each of us were brought for a purpose. The relationships that we have established—both among ourselves and among the Belizeans—have been amazing!"

Melissa Wells, the church's trip leader, concurs: "I love short-term mission trips! It is a time where everybody on the team is focused on a common goal—to glorify God!"

July 29-August 5

While Hope Community Church was serving in the village of Sand Hill this week, 32 people from St. John's Lutheran Church from Bakersfield, CA, were serving in the village of Armenia. The primary ministries were children's ministry (specifically Vacation Bible School), sports/recreation ministry, and construction/service ministry.

One story serves as a highlight for many of the participants: The group met a woman who was worried that her husband may have been injured in a bus accident she had heard about on the road between the village and the Belize Zoo, where he worked. The group had the opportunity to talk and pray with her, and made plans to visit her the next afternoon to see if she had heard anything. The next morning before heading back to the village, the group visited the zoo for a morning of sightseeing. While there, the team got to talking with a zoo keeper named Juan about the mission trip; through that conversation the group realized that Juan was the husband of the woman they had talked to the day before. Back in Armenia, the group spent time with Juan, his wife, and their children (who had been attending VBS). The team was ministered to by Juan's faith story and his relationship with Christ. He and his family came to the midweek service and spent most of the group's final day in the village helping put up a fence around the church. It was truly a completely God-filled experience from start to finish!

Jeff Mojo (age 49), a participant on the trip, described his highlights: "The light of the Holy Spirit in the people of a poor village in the middle of Belize. How they so crave the Word of God and how trusting they were of strangers coming into their village and their homes."

Monica Tudor (age 50), another participant on the trip, said, "This trip will have a life-long echo. Even in the preparation phase, God gave me courage and the words to share, something that I had never thought I'd be happy to do. I remember seeing evangelists when I was younger and thinking that I'd NEVER want to do that. But God has a sense of humor—and look what He's done!"

August 5-12

"The aliens have landed!" was the cheer of the Praying Pelican Missions leadership team as they greeted this group in early August. The Alien Youth Group from East Hampton Bible Church of

East Hampton, CT, brought a team of eight to join with six individuals from across the United States for a fantastic week of ministry. Residents of the village of Hattieville were the grateful recipients of ministries that included visiting a children's home and old folks home, leading church services, holding evangelism services, Vacation Bible School, and construction/work projects.

Highlights included getting to know and work with other individuals from across the United States. The team enjoyed building relationships with people in the village and hearing their stories and testimonies. A great response to Vacation Bible School was another highlight.

Shawn Allred, a youth pastor from Tennessee who went on this trip as an individual, raved, "It was a wonderful example of the Body of Christ. We had people from seven different states come together and minister in way that could only be described as supernatural. I will forever be grateful for the example."

Sarah Ingala, youth leader and group leader from East Hampton Bible Church, said, "As a youth leader, I loved seeing my teens use their gifts and abilities for God's glory. Seeing them be so open to the other group members as well as the Belizeans was awesome. I loved watching them show God's love to others."

2007: Bright Future Ahead

The future looks bright for Belize missions as more than 430 people representing 15 trips have already signed up with Praying Pelican Mission for trips in the year 2007! Dates are filling up quickly, so register your group TODAY by going to www.prayingpelicanmissions.org. Praise God for the lives that will be changed!

Talk Missions!

Log on to www.prayingpelicanmissions.org today to Talk Missions! Click on the "Talk Missions!" tab on our website to participate in the blog, forum, and photo gallery. Chat with other participants and leaders on the blog, discuss short-term missions topics on the forum, and reminisce about your recent Praying Pelican Missions trip by posting your trip photos. With these upgrades, we further our commitment to offering a full-service website to make going on a missions trip with Praying Pelican Missions as easy and accessible as possible!

Prayer Requests

Please pray that:

- God would bless the ministry preparations of groups partnering with Praying Pelican Missions for trips in early 2007.
- Youth leaders at churches across the United States would be drawn to Praying Pelican Missions for their mission trip plans for the upcoming year.
- Those who participated in trips this past summer would be leaders in their churches and communities, spreading the Good News.
- God would give those associated with Praying Pelican Missions hearts to donate financially to the organization so that the Gospel can continue to be widely spread in Belize and beyond.
- Churches in Belize would flourish and grow this fall, encouraged by the ministry accomplished this summer through Praying Pelican Missions.

2007 Marketing Materials Now Available

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! 2007 marketing materials, including brochures and posters, are now available for distribution. Contact Praying Pelican Missions at info@prayingpelicanmissions.org or 218.740.4400 to request materials for yourself and/or your church or ministry.

Correction

We apologize that in the August issue of *The Pelican Briefs* we listed The Stand youth group from Faith Alliance Church as from Charleston, SC. They are actually from New Bremond, OH. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

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