

# THE PELICAN BRIEFS

The Official Newsletter of  
Praying Pelican Missions

March/April 2007



## 105 Spring Breakers on a Mission

Lots of students choose to spend their spring breaks escaping the chill of winter and flocking to warm climates like Belize. However, most are packing sun screen instead of Bibles and spending their days laying on beaches rather than performing construction in poor villages. Thankfully, 105 spring breakers on a mission made Belize their destination of choice for three amazing weeks of ministry.

### March 22-29

Participants from Wasilla Lake Christian School (Wasilla Lake, AK), The Master's Academy (Rockland, MA), C.S. Lewis Academy (Newberg, OR), and four individuals (Minnesota and Wisconsin) partnered up for a week of ministry in the village of Ladyville, Belize. Numbering 44 in all, the group worked primarily with Ladyville Baptist Church.

Ministries including serving on a farm with no electricity or running water; Vacation Bible School; school ministry, including leading chapel, at Ladyville Evangelical School; sports ministry; construction that involved helping finish a new church in the village to replace the current one that is falling apart; visiting a children's home for orphans; holding church services on Sunday morning and night; leading a youth night with worship, testimonies, and a message; and door-to-door invitations to events and prayer.

Highlights for the group included the worship service led by Pastor Westby as well as the progress made on the new church building. Leading Belizean people to the Lord was another huge highlight of the week.

Here's what a few of the participants had to say about the trip:

"It was a trip of a lifetime, and you could really see God's hand at work."

—Chris Bannister

"When I return home, I will be setting up ways to work with the youth in our community. I really feel this trip showed me how one person showing God's word and love can give a child something to hold on to, which will help them through the hard times in their lives."

—Wendy Sorenson

"This trip made me realize that in America we take for granted so many things, and the people in Belize have so much excitement even if they only have the necessities needed to survive."

— Peter Hadden

### March 29-April 6

From March 29-April 4, Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church (Bloomington, MN) made Bermudian Landing their home base for ministry. Beginning March 30,

Mitchell Christian School (Mitchell, SD) and an individual (AR) joined Normandale in their work at Bermudian Landing. The group of 44 total worked closely with Bermudian Landing Baptist Church.

Ministries included visiting an orphanage and a nursing home; leading two Sunday services as well as two night evangelism services; door-to-door ministry; construction that included gutting a mission house and putting in new ceiling, walls, windows, and doors as well as painting the inside of the house; medical missions that included a health screening at the church; and holding a youth night that included worship, testimonies, a message, and a bonfire.

Highlights for the group included seeing the drastic change in the mission house throughout the week. In addition, constructing basketball hoops and seeing them used within minutes of going up, as well as the personal testimonies given throughout the week, made this a memorable trip for all.

Here's what a few of the participants had to say about the trip:

"Watching God breathe life into the ministries planned by this large and diverse group; watching them grow in faith and share genuinely with others; and seeing God's love across the spectrums of theology, politics, social life, and geography—these were the highlights of my week!"

—Rachael Anne Weller

"This trip was an opportunity of a lifetime and a desperately needed faith renewal. My life will never be the same."

—Emily Berglund

"I have never seen God work in as many amazing ways as I did during this missions trip."

—Ellen Schaffran

"This mission experience has made me see the world and how God works with new eyes. God made Himself evident and exceeded expectations again. PPM provided us an opportunity to step out and to step up for God!"

—Lisa Young

"This has been the single most important trip in my life as a Christian and will forever be in my heart and mind."

—Neil S.

### April 8-15

The village of Hattieville hosted 17 participants this week that hailed from Fairfield Free Will Baptist Church (Fairfield, CA) and two individuals (AR and FL). Hattieville Baptist Church was the home base for their ministry.

Ministries included Vacation Bible School; construction; hosting a Teen Night; evangelism; visiting an orphanage; visiting a nursing home; and ministering at a youth hostel.

A highlight for the group was seeing God honored and glorified through the combined efforts of everyone on the trip.

Here's what a few of the participants had to say about the trip:

"Being there and making a difference in the lives of the youth as well as praising God together—these were the highlights for me."

—Mark Robinson

"The highlight of this trip was the interaction with the children. The children were very enthusiastic and loving. They were thankful with what God had given them. They were joyful even though they had little materialistically."

—Melyne Chiariello

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## Passport Reminder

Thousands more U.S. citizens are in the process of obtaining passports in light of recent changes to requirements for travel to Canada and Mexico. The result is a greatly increased wait time between when a person applies for a passport and actually receives it. While this process has typically taken six to eight weeks in the past, many people are experiencing delays that result in a wait time of 12-14 weeks. **If you are traveling with Praying Pelican Missions this summer and have not applied for a passport, please do so immediately.** If your trip is less than 12-14 weeks away, please contact your local passport office as to how you can expedite the process.

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## Group Workcamps Partnership Announced

In a string of exciting partnerships, Praying Pelican Missions is pleased to announce a partnership with Group Workcamps. PPM has chosen to partner with Group Workcamps Foundation as a cosponsor for service expedition camps in the summers of 2007 and 2008. The 8-night/9-day camp will take place in and around Belize City from June 23-July 1, 2007, with nearly 100 participants signed up. Although the "camp" will look very similar to any other PPM mission trip, the large number of participants will make for a varied and exciting week of ministry.

"We are pleased to be able to further the ministry in Belize by partnering with one of the largest providers of short-term missions," says PPM Founder and CEO Jason Pflugsten. "We look forward to the ministry and lives that can be changed through this valuable partnership with Group Workcamps."

## Prayer Requests

Please pray that:

- Those who participated in the spring break trips would use their experiences in Belize to impact their churches and communities back home.
- Belizean churches would continue the momentum in ministry following the work of the spring break mission teams.
- Fundraising efforts for teams traveling this summer would be blessed with strong results.
- God would give teams preparing for upcoming mission trips clarity as to how He can best use their skills and abilities for His glory.
- Praying Pelican Missions staff would have wisdom as they prepare for the various ministries for upcoming trips.

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## Praying Pelican Personnel

### Full-Time Staff

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