

CHRIST in Belize



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DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST AND PARTNERS IN THE BELIZE MISSION,

I have been your LCMS missionary in the country of Belize for the past four years. So much has happened for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in this time that I believe it's worthwhile to stop, consider it, and give thanks.

We have confirmed the very first local in the country, Ms. Renellee Gonzalez. We are engaged in regular, intentional work in five different sites in Belize. Our "on the ground" mission team has expanded to include two full-time pastoral missionaries: Rev. Herbert Burch and a vicar (Benjamin Flores) from the LCMS Latin America-operated seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. We are developing church property on two of our mission sites: Seine Bight and Valley of Peace. Perhaps most notably, we are serving dozens of Belizeans every week with faithful Lutheran worship and Bible study. The Word of the Lord is going out across Belize, and it is not returning to Him void.

These blessings from God are happening because you cared enough to partner with us! Your love of God and neighbor, your zeal for His mission, your prayers, and your partnership are so much a part of what is happening in Belize. For that I am incredibly thankful, and I praise God for you. His Spirit is clearly at work in you!

TODAY I ALSO WRITE TO INFORM YOU OF AN EXCITING TRANSITION TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE BELIZE MISSION.

The Synod's oldest partner in Belize, the Belize Mission Society, has extended to me a Call to serve as their new director. I have accepted this Call from God with humility and joy and will officially begin work in this new capacity at the beginning of August. I will spend approximately 80% of my time working from a new home base in Houston, TX and the remaining 20% of my time with boots on the ground in Belize. The ongoing pastoral work in Belize will be covered by the remaining missionaries on the ground until a replacement for my position can be found.

The Belize Mission Society is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. The society began work in Belize 17 years ago. It has been the primary organization responsible for what we call the "mercy work" being done in Belize in support of our Synod's mission. Examples include construction of human-care facilities, vacation Bible school projects, dental clinics, medical home visits, vision clinics, tutoring programs, a feeding program, and a countrywide school scholarship program. In formal partnership with the LCMS Office of International Mission, the Belize Mission Society supports projects designed to show Christ's love and mercy to those in need and further the evangelization and church-planting efforts of our LCMS missionaries on the ground. Learn more at www.BelizeMissionSociety.net

God is good and is stirring His mission to continue and grow in Belize. Thank you again for the part you play in all this work by His grace. I hope it's a partnership to celebrate for years to come. To God be all glory and honor, both now and forever

-Rev. Duane Meissner



Early Wednesday morning, April 24th, we watched the country of Belize's first Lutheran church building roll into the village of Seine Bight on the back of a truck. In reality, this building will be used for all kinds of special things in addition to church services, including local missionary housing, the local school's feeding program, support groups, and community events. This was an exciting day that we've been looking forward to for a long time.



These are exciting times! →

Please stay tuned for more specific information (coming soon!) on how you can stay involved in supporting my work and this mission in Belize that we have all grown to love. For now, check out the Belize Mission Society website:

www.BelizeMissionSociety.net