



Belize Softball Missions Trip 2009 Report

Once again, another mission trip has come and gone. God continues to amaze us, and he is always right there, on time! This was one of the smallest groups we have taken to Belize. What we lacked in people, we made up for in energy, enthusiasm, and love for the people for whom we went to minister. This group was amazing to be a part of. We thank God for the opportunity he has given us, to be a part of something that is much larger than "us"!

San Ignacio & outlying Villages – Primary Schools

Monday through Friday, our schedule was basically the same; clinic in the morning, clinic in the afternoon, and play a game at night. The schools we visited were in schools that our organizer, (Patrick), called the "forgotten children of Belize". These schoolchildren lived in villages close to the rainforest and toward the northwestern side of the country, near Guatemala. The schools were in some of the poorest places we have ever been. The children were amazing, hanging on every word and every drill. One of the things we noticed was what a great job these teachers had done teaching the children to behave and be very respectful. Most of the clinics are in open fields where the sun always beams down upon us, but amazingly the clouds rolled in during the times we presented the gospel to the kids. It's amazing how God's timing is always exactly right. Over the five days of clinics, we had the opportunity to speak to 489 primary school children. 88 of the children accepted Christ as their personal savior. We were also able to give away 500 New Testaments and 500 pencil bags filled with school supplies, along with a supply basket for the teachers of every school.

San Ignacio High Schools and Colleges

One of the new ministries we were involved with this year was "Sexual Purity and Abstinence". We had the opportunity to go into the high schools in the area and bring a message of purity through sexual abstinence. God allowed us to bring Cyndi Wiseman from the ministry Branded to give these talks. Over the course of five (5) days, she was able to bring the message of purity to five (5) schools in nine (9) sessions. Over 850 high school and college students were exposed to the message of purity and how Jesus can work in their life. Eight (8) of these students accepted Christ as their Savior.

Esperanza Village and Belize City - Playing Softball

Once again, we played a series of Fastpitch Softball games at Joan Garbutt Stadium in Esperanza Village and in Rogers Stadium in Belize City. Overall we went 5-3 in the 8 games, only losing the opener and the 2 games against the Belize National Teams. Not too bad for a team with the average age of 41. The great part is how many opportunities we have to share with the guys and girls that come to the games. We were able to share Jesus with the Belize National Men's Team, and the Belize National Women's Team, along with the men's and women's team from Esperanza Village, along with the women's team from Camalotte Village.

By the numbers

2009 was astounding from the raw numbers that we saw; 489 primary school students, 850 high school students, 95 players and coaches (adults), and approximately 250-500 people every night in the stands to watch us play. On Friday night, at our "going away" BBQ, there were 500 fans to watch the game and the home run derby. Excluding the fans, we shared with over 1730 people, with 96 "one on one" counseled decision for Jesus. God allowed this to happen with a team of only 16 men and women. Since 2005, we have shared Jesus with over 3950 children and adults and seen over 350 Belizeans accept Christ into their hearts. In 4 years, God has allowed us to share with over 10% of the population of the country. The International Sports Outreach softball team (which is different every trip) is 23-6 overall since 2005. Softball is the tool; Jesus is the reason for these trips.

Moving Forward

2010 is shaping up to be a great year again. The Belize trip is planned for March 13-21. This is during Spring Break for most of our students here in the U.S. We need you to be a part of this next trip. Whether you are a man, woman, or child, God can use you to do great things to impact the only English speaking country in Central America. This trip will feature an opportunity for you to be involved in the life of 1000 students and involve yourself in the fabric of village life in another country. We always think that we are going to change others, when the trip itself, changes you!