



Belize Softball Missions Trip 2011 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 largest groups we have taken to Belize. The group's energy, enthusiasm, and love for the people we saw, was amazing. 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 (Cayo District) – Primary Schools

Monday thru Thursday 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 the Cayo District of Belize. The team did softball and baseball drills, while constantly teaching in every drill to be "Balanced on the Cross". Our speaker for the week, Stan Roach, presented the Gospel at the end of every clinic. Boys and Girls then had the opportunity to be counseled one on one, with one of our coaches, or team members. Over the 4 days of clinics, we had the opportunity to speak to 680 primary school children. 73 of the children accepted Christ as their personal savior. We were also able to give away a pencil bag filled with school supplies to each child, inside that pencil bag was also a cartoon book (tract) that the kids could read at home and were encouraged to give to their parents.

Belize Christian Academy, Cayo Christian Academy, and evening Youth Groups (High School Students)

All week, a team from Grace House Ministries, led presentations in these schools on purity and abstinence. These concepts and truths were presented in a Biblical and no nonsense approach. Through these clinics Susie and Tammy were able to share with over 150 secondary school students per day, along with 15-20 students every evening. Over the course of the week, they built strong relationships with these students. By the end of the week, long term relationships had been established with some of these students which will continue for years. These students are the future leaders of Belize.

San Pedro Island

On Friday, we opened a new area of ministry, San Pedro Island. We visited 2 schools doing clinics, and the Grace House team were able to talk to 2 assemblies of students. The sports team saw 180 more children, and witnessed another 16 decisions for Christ. We invited them all back for a softball tournament and Home Run Derby on Saturday. Saturday was an astonishing day. We played 5 softball games against whoever wanted to play us. At 4:00, we started the Home Run Derby, thanks to superior equipment; we were able to hit some astonishing Home Runs in an unmatched display of power, all leading up to Stan Roach being able to present the Gospel to the crowd. The premise of the message on the awesome POWER of Jesus! We were able to see God move and change lives that day in a wondrous way. 2 members of the Belizean National Team accepted Christ, after 7 years of hearing the Gospel from our teams, and us just spreading the love of Jesus year after year. God blessed our obedience of continuing to show up year after year.

By the numbers

2011 was astounding from the raw numbers that we saw, over 1000 primary school and high school students, 95 players and coaches (adults), and approximately 250-500 people every night in the stands to watch us play. We were able to confirm 97 "one on one" counseled decisions for Jesus. God allowed this to happen with a team of 27 obedient men and women. Since 2005, we have shared Jesus with over 6000 children and adults and seen over 590 Belizeans accept Christ into their hearts. In 7 years, God has allowed us to share with over 10% of the population of the country.

Moving Forward

Trip #2 for 2011 is being planned for October of this year. The Belize trip for 2012 is planned for March 10-18. 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, and impact the only English speaking country in Central America. This trip will feature an opportunity for you to be involved in the life of 500-1000 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!

GOD IS MOVING ALL THE TIME!

ISO is in the process of applying for a grant through the Belize Telemedia Group. This grant is for over \$100,000 BZD (\$50,000 USD). This grant would allow for ISO to set up a full time Baseball (boys) and Softball (girls) programs throughout the country. These programs would allow us to present the Gospel through practices and games during the season. I will also allow us to be in the community day in and day out, being able to follow up with the families of students. This has been the goal of ISO in Belize since its inception. PLEASE pray for this grant process and for God's will to be done.