



## **Gomer House Proposal**

Eric & Julie Maas, CBF NC Field Personnel, are serving in Belize, Central America. Since their arrival in 2008, they have been involved in the “Child Development Foundation” (CDF-not to be confused with CBF). This Christian, non-profit organization, seeks to raise awareness of Human Trafficking. Belize has been identified as a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Commonly found in Belize is the coerced prostitution of children, often occurring through parents pushing their children to provide sexual favors to older men in exchange for school fees, money, and gifts. Child sex tourism has been identified in Belize, not only on highly visited islands for tourists but also from tourists arriving by cruise ships at harbor for the day.

For several years, the Maas’s have been working with CDF and attending their weekly prayer meetings. They have been in prayer for a facility where victims can receive shelter and care. As of now, there are no official rescue and rehabilitation facilities in Belize for trafficked victims who make the decision to seek help & can receive counseling and alternative income generation training. But thanks be to God, after many years of faithful prayer, God has provided land for CDF! This past January 2014, funding became available and a 10-acre piece of property (which had been prayed over for over 2 years) was purchased. This new home will be called, “The Gomer House,” namely after the beautiful story of Hosea and Gomer in the Old Testament. The rescue/rehabilitation home will provide long-term residential care for up to 6 girls during which time they will receive therapeutic counseling services, educational/academic training, income generation/ skills training, life skills, Bible studies and spiritual nurturing, anger management training, medical care and legal advice. The site will also house a conference facility in a separate enclosure to facilitate training and sensitization efforts to the community to strengthen existing prevention efforts. An administrative building along with a groundskeepers home will also be necessary on the property as well.

Because of the Maas’s partnerships with CBF NC and many NC churches already involved in Belize, there is great need for support for this project such as: Mission teams to provide construction, general supplies for the various buildings, financial donations, and prayer coverage. This property is adjacent to the Baptist Training Center where the Maas’s currently live and provide oversight. It’s a great location for mission teams to be housed for the construction of this project.

More information about CDF can be found on the Child Development Foundation’s website, [www.cdfbelize.com](http://www.cdfbelize.com).

Inquiries (including donations) can be made through contacting Julie Maas at [Julie@seeksservesave.org](mailto:Julie@seeksservesave.org).