

Belize Medical Trip Report 2012

*From Hal Melton, Associate Pastor/Missions and Senior Adult Ministries,
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In May, our Medical/Dental mission team spent a week in Valley of Peace working with school children and village adults. One amazing story from the week: On Monday, a father came riding up to the clinic with a little boy named Jason on the back of his bike shouting “Help me! Help me! My son has been bitten by a snake!” It was a “Tommy Goff,” a poisonous snake!

Our two doctors were busy helping a man whose throat had been cut in a fight in a bar in Belmopan and needed serious attention. They also knew there was nothing they could do to help the boy without anti-venom. So Ryan and Wendee Smith jumped in one of our vans with the father and son and sped to the hospital in Belmopan, 20 miles away down a rough dirt road. As soon as they arrived, the doctors started an IV of anti-venom and told the couple they had saved the boy’s life by getting him there so quickly. As the team was packing up to leave on their last day of work, the father and Jason came to say goodbye. The father said the team had saved his son and he wanted to pay us, but he had no money. They assured him that it was God who was in control of the situation, having the medical team there at the right time in the right place to be able to serve. The father asked if he could pray. As the team circled around him, he fell to his knees and prayed one of the most fervent prayers they had ever heard. It was in Spanish, but many “Dios” and “hallelujahs” and “gracias gloria Spiritus” and “Jesus” were heard. There was not a dry eye to be found. The team will never forget the worship they experienced in that moment.

Our mission to do finishing work on the Santa Elena School in August was also an incredible experience. When we arrived, our team were absolutely blown away! The church members and other NC and Wisconsin church groups had done an amazing job of plastering the walls, painting, and building a three-room bathroom, with running water, septic tank and a toilet and sink in each room. The school room closest to the road was completed, giving us a secure room for all our tools and supplies on site. We just stood for a long time with our mouths open wide! Praises to God flowed freely for the blessings bestowed on this community and Santa Elena Baptist Church!

By the end of the week, all doors and windows were in place. All ceilings were painted and a second coat of paint was on most walls. We had a lot of help from new friends Mike and Leslie, in addition to Manny and Paul who had helped in February. The children in the neighborhood were still out of school, wanting to help by sweeping, painting, and “playing school” in the one finished classroom.

Our prayers are now that the government gives approval to the school and it will be able to open for classes in January!

**Top right: Jason and his father when they arrived.
Bottom right: Jason and his father on the last day of our trip.**

