



MPI UPDATE

Mission Projects, Inc **March-April, 2010**

La Loma Luz chosen to be “adopted” by Loma Linda School of Medicine Class of 2012! (story pg 3)



Grant McPherson, Kyra Eddy-LLSM Class of 2012, Ardis McPherson

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Moving ahead in 2010



The President's Corner

Dear MPI Supporters

It is now official! Mission Projects, Adventist Health International, The Belize

Ed MacKenzie
MPI President

Seventh-day Adventist Union of Churches and the Inter American Division of Seventh-day Adventists have partnered to oversee La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital. Mission Projects transferred the ownership of the Hospital to The Belize Seventh-day Adventist Union of Church in order to accomplish this partnership. The new Hospital Board will be chaired by Adventist Health International. All four of the above mentioned entities will have representation on the new Hospital Board. Mission Projects will continue to be involved as in the past. La Loma Luz is the sixth Hospital in the Inter American Division to be accepted into this program. This arrangement has already proven to be a real blessing to those Hospitals that have been involved. La Loma Luz has already experienced some benefits from this new relationship which we will share with you in future newsletters. You can read about the Loma Linda 2012 School of Medicine Class adopting La Loma Luz Hospital on the following page.

What does all of this mean for the future of the Hospital?

The new arrangement will bring a level of Governance that was not previously available. Adventist Health International will bring expertise and assistance to the Hospital in the form of plant, personal and program recommendations and assistance.

There will be an availability of professional assistance with a number of programs that include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>A. Dental Services</i> | <i>G. Legal Services</i> |
| <i>B. Disaster & Humanitarian Services</i> | <i>H. Nursing Services</i> |
| <i>C. Environmental Services</i> | <i>I. Philanthropic Services</i> |
| <i>D. Equipment Procurement & Maintenance</i> | <i>J. Public Relations</i> |
| <i>E. Facility Construction & Maintenance</i> | <i>K. Tropical Medicine</i> |
| <i>F. Financial Management</i> | <i>Electives</i> |

Other programs and associations include such things as:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <i>A. Clinical Rotations</i> | <i>D. Family Medicine Residency Program</i> |
| <i>B. Education Programs</i> | <i>E. Strategic Planning</i> |
| <i>C. Engineering</i> | |

Mission Projects believes the above arrangements will give La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital a better opportunity to provide the best health care possible for the people of Belize.

In His Service, Ed MacKenzie

The MacKenzie's travel internationally, conducting Lay Evangelism Campaigns. Ed oversees the accounting system at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital. Ruth helps in the office and sews for the Belmopan Adventist Orphanage, in her spare time. Being avid birdwatchers, the MacKenzie's especially enjoy Belize.

LLL Adopted by LLSM Class of 2012

By: Grant McPherson, *La Loma Luz AH Administrator*

We have exciting news from LLLAH: The Loma Linda School of Medicine, Class of 2012 has chosen to adopt LLLAH as their class project with a team of 45 are coming next January, 2011! This will be an ongoing relationship.

Kyra Eddy, a member of the class of 2012, along with her parents visited LLLAH this last February.

She wrote back to Grant McPherson saying, *"I'm taking a break from studying to connect with you regarding the Adopt-a-Hospital project of La Loma Luz. I showed pictures of the hospital and you and Ardis to my classmates on Thursday and they were happy to finally put faces to the names!*

It is our dream to raise enough money before we come, next January, to be able to buy a piece of equipment that the hospital needs. Can you give us a couple of ideas of things that the hospital really needs? Maybe something in the \$5,000 range, something in the \$10,000 range and something in the \$15,000 range? We have been selling T-shirts to raise money for this project already, and we plan to send out a letter and DVD over the summer to friends and family.

The HOPE channel is here to do a story about the school of medicine...it'll be a 13-part series and they've asked to interview me about this project, which is SUPER exciting!!!

I appreciate your help and your commitment to La Loma Luz and your BIG DREAMS!!! We are SO excited to partner with you to serve God in Belize!!!!!" ♦



Kyra

Mission Projects Inc. Summer Board Meeting

Sunday, June 20, 2010 9:00 A.M.

The meeting will be Sunday following the Montana Campmeeting.

The Campmeeting is on the campus of Mount Ellis Academy.

For on-campus lodging and Campmeeting reservations, contact:

Ruth Stanton: 406-587-3101

Board Meeting location will be at:

Montana Conference Headquarters

175 Canyon View Road

Bozeman, MT 59715

“An Amazing Experience!”

By Becky Chisum

This year my school, DayStar Adventist Academy, had the awesome privilege to go to Belize on a mission trip. The trip lasted three weeks from January 7th to the 26th. This was my first mission trip, so I was very excited. Everyone was really looking forward to building 37 One-Day churches in the hot Belize weather.

We arrived at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in Santa Elena Wednesday evening. The school spent the weekend together, and then we were split into two groups. One group stayed at the hospital and the other group went up north to a town called Corozal, a couple miles south of the Mexican border. I ended up going with the bigger group to Corozal. I remember waking up every morning around 6 a.m., eating breakfast, and getting ready at the same time because sometimes we would have to drive hours to get to the town where we would build the church. Soon we created a system that allowed us to build two churches a day, one before lunch and the other after. It was hard work, but we usually got some help from local people that wanted to be involved.

The culture in Belize was very different. Children have a greater responsibility than we are used to; some of them were in charge of fruit stands in the towns, or selling knick-knacks to tourists. There were tortilla venders that would drive in their cars and honk their horns to sell the tortillas and there was fresh fruit everywhere! Most of the people spoke both Spanish and English and were very friendly and interested in our mission, they would come to our building sites and talk to us, ask us questions, help us and offer us fruit to eat. We visited a few churches and even had the privilege to witness two baptisms.

I, along with many of the students, experienced lots of different things, such as taking showers every evening with freezing water. All of the water there is undrinkable, so we had to bleach our water to cook, clean, and even brush our teeth with. We carried huge gallons of drinking water everyday to the work sites.

The weather was interesting too. Belize is very tropical so everything was green and abundant with life, but the constant rain would have made it near impossible to work in. God however was with us, and it rained only a little while we were there. It was amazing to see how much God helped us during our trip. He stopped giant black clouds of rain, and instead, showed us rainbows.

One morning our only truck, which we needed to carry our church supplies for the day, wouldn't start, but as soon as everyone prayed, it turned on. He protected us all from major injuries, at the building site or on the road. Prayer and faith were the most important tools we used in Belize.

Everyone had an amazing experience. We all learned so much and some of us not only blessed the people in Belize with a church, but we received ourselves, growing stronger in Christ. This mission trip will be remembered for many years to come, and I for one, can't wait for next year's mission trip! ♦



MPI News Report

from La Loma Luz

By: *Wendy Harris, interviewing “DayStar Kids” & Kayla Harris*

What did you learn about Belize or the people of Belize while you were there?

“I was able to experience first hand a third world country. I learned how much extra work everything, simple daily things, take to accomplish.”-*Becky*

“The people were gracious, happy and thankful for us to take our time for them.”-*Kimberly*

“I learned that the people there are more grateful for little things that we let go unnoticed.”-*Kelsy*

“The people of Belize are happy most of the time even though they have so little and we have so much.”-*Hannah*

“The people of Belize are very giving and they have a relaxed culture.”-*Brittany*

What did you learn about yourself while you were on the mission trip?

“I need more faith and I love warm showers and toilets.” –*Shauna*

“I learned that I am closer to God now than I have ever been before.”-*Hannah*

“I realized or learned that I can be flexible and be comfortable wherever I was at the time.”-*Brittany*

“I learned that if I try hard enough I can do anything I want to.”-*Kristina*

What was a highlight of the mission trip for you?

“Lunch time everyday. I loved the food! I also fully enjoyed the kids running around the neighborhood, their smiles, joy, and spirits. They are full of life.”-*Becky*

“Finishing our project!”-*Kimberly*

“We grew closer together, and closer to God. I saw the power of prayer, and direct answers to prayer.”-*Kelsy*

What would you write to someone who is thinking of going on a mission trip?

“I would do it all over again.” –*Shauna*

“GO!” –*Eric*

“Be prepared to learn and grow. Careful of the bugs, don’t over-pack, take money, take things to give to the locals, bring a camera, sit back and enjoy as much as possible because mission trips are a whole other world.”-*Becky*

“Our mission trip to Belize was the greatest experience in my life, I wouldn’t trade anything for it.”-*Kelsy*

“Go, you will not return the same person.”-*Hannah*

“Go, you will learn more about yourself, God, and others than you thought possible. And the feeling of accomplishment is out of this world.”-*Danelle*

Other excerpts from papers:

“I like how after two months it felt like my home--even the bugs in the food I got used to!” ---*Kayla*

Even when some people did not have a stove or washing machine, they were happy---- and they would share what they had.”-*Sammy*

“There were a couple of churches that stand out in my mind. The first one was a ghetto area near Corazal. The story behind it was that, many different groups of people had been trying to reach this town for a long time. They would come in and do evangelistic series, but nothing ever happened. The people seemed always uninterested, until a group decided to come, and not only do an evangelistic series, but also visit the people in their homes every week spending time doing Bible studies and talking with them. This went on for a while and pretty soon they invited people to church. It was slowly growing. The people that were drug dealers and gang members were starting to wonder what was going on. Shortly after we arrived those people came to help us build the churches. We were able to talk to them and work with them. They were so eager to help in any way they could.

The second church was kind of out in the country. The church that they were worshipping in was cracked. Its walls were not even connected anymore. It was a blessing to be able to build a church that they knew would not collapse on top of them. Both of these churches were in real need of a building to worship God in.”-*Brittany*



Locals and DayStar Academy staff and students working together to make a difference.

“At the end of our trip we were able to go snorkeling, which was awesome! All the creatures under the water are so brilliantly beautiful. God’s imagination is endless. It’s like another world under there. We were also able to go to a place about three hours away from La Loma Luz where there were some natural water slides and pools. The water-slides were rocks with moss on them that made them slippery so it was like sliding down waterfalls and the pools were deep. It was so nice to have a break from working and have some fun.”-*Brittany* ♦

Bakery Honored by God

By Karen Kotoske

I was so happy in January to at last meet our young missionary teacher, Viridiana Zazueta, the lay missionary teacher sponsored by MPI. She has been accepted as a member many families. Viridiana is a graduate teacher with a specialty in developmentally delayed and handicapped children. As soon as she arrived last fall, she visited families asking which families have special needs children. She now gives



in-home 'classes' for these children. Viridiana is one of the best missionaries we could ever hope for. She is friendly and outgoing, and because she's a trained teacher, has an ability to connect easily with Puente families. She didn't hesitate as soon as she arrived to begin visiting families around Puente and because of her willingness to share Jesus through friendship and Bible studies, our church has been growing steadily. Let me tell you

about one of her new friends.

Viridiana began making friends with the Villa Grana family who owns a new bakery near the airfield. I visited the bakery with Viridiana just as the bread was coming out of the oven and a customer line was forming. Owners Melkezedekia and son Vladimir welcomed us with gifts of warm sweet breads. Our friendly Viridiana had invited this family to come to church and they have been attending for a few months now. When Melkezedekia learned about the Sabbath, she felt God was asking her to close her new bakery on Sabbath, her biggest day of business. Almost as soon as Melkezedekia and Vladimir made the decision to close on Sab-



bath, they were given a contract to sell a large amount of bread in the large Huichol Indian town of Tuxpan. Villa Grana Bakery now has so many bread orders that they need another set of bakery racks!

Ten people from Huichol and Mestizo towns were baptized in March. Your support of Viridiana makes it possible for her to reach people for Jesus, resulting in changed lives for eternity. ♦

LLL New Hope for Merari

By Ruth MacKenzie

We first reported on this story in 1998. It all started when Merari's parents brought her to La Loma Luz with serious heart problems. At 20 months the tiny girl looked like a four month old baby. Merari spent eight days at LLL and her health improved drastically. But a serious heart problem was detected. Her only hope was to have surgery outside the country. Rose Summerton and Dr Alex Norzow made the initial contacts and financed the airline transportation for Merari and her dad to fly to Loma Linda. Others helped as well to make this trip a reality.

In March, 1998 skilled surgeons at Loma Linda did the surgery without charge! Merari's dad and mom told us that they fall short of words to express how we have really shown "love in action."

Now the story continues:

In the December 10, 2009 "Review", there was an article entitled "25 Years Later, LLUMC Surgeon Bailey Reflects on 'Baby Fae' Case." When Rose read this article she was reminded of Merari. She found the original MPI News Letter (September-October, 1998) with the above story and brought it with her to Belize, along with the Review article, to show to Merari and her family. (Yes, at 96 Rose still flies to Belize for her regular three month stay, and still helps in the kitchen!)

Sad to say, Merari's father threatened her mother and he has fled the country. Merari's mom supports the family by selling used clothes. She also makes some things like pillowcases to sell. Merari helps her with this work.

Merari's younger siblings are all still in primary school. Merari went to our SDA elementary school last year but is not attending school this year. Rose says she wants to sponsor Merari in Eden SDA Academy on the LLL campus starting next year.

Merari is now a beautiful young lady of 15 years. Pictured here is Merari, Rose and Merari's mom. They are now living in Benque just a few blocks from the SDA church and elementary school. Merari says that now they have water and electricity in their house.

The children attend the Benque SDA church some. I hope to get them in contact with someone that can continue to encourage them to attend Sabbath School and Church more often. Please pray for this family. ♦



La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in Belize is looking for a General Surgeon

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the Hospital's Administrator, Mr. Grant McPherson at: mcpherson_grant@hotmail.com

But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; but he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man accordingly as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor 9:6,7

A Future Gift *is* a Planned Gift

Does your *present* financial situation seem to prevent you from supporting Mission Projects, Inc. this year? We have some good news; you can still support your favorite project through a *future* gift. Helping you make plans for a future gift is the essence of our Planned Giving Department. Let us show you how easily this can be done through one or more of the following methods:

- Name Mission Projects, Inc. as a beneficiary of your IRA or 401(k) retirement plan
- Designate us as a dollar amount or percentage beneficiary of your will or revocable living trust
- Name Mission Projects, Inc. as a beneficiary of your investment/brokerage account or life insurance policies
- Transfer valuables such as stamp, coin or antique collections to us through a simple change to your documents

Perhaps you need more income now or for your anticipated retirement. We even offer *future* gift options that will pay you a generous, fixed income NOW for as long as you live; provide immediate income tax relief and ultimately provide funds for Mission Projects, Inc.

To learn more, contact our Planned Giving department today at 866-356-5595.

Worthy Student Aid

Mission Doctor Student Perseveres

By Ana Luisa

My name is Ana Luisa Diaz and I am 22 Years old. Since I met Jesus Christ as my Savior, I had the dream of becoming a missionary. Many students were returning from their great experience of evangelism, and I had aspirations of being a student at Montemorelos University like they were. I wanted to be a Doctor ever since I was a child, but money was my biggest obstacle. Neither of my parents supported my idea. For a while I thought that maybe they were right when they said, “Adventist University is only for rich people.” But God had better plans for me. Public school was not an option because you must go on Saturday class and the admission test were given on Saturdays also.



I did not want to lose my vision and Christian values. I decided to hold my faith on the Lord; He knew my desires and He would find a solution for me. I went to the pastor and he told me that God has a purpose for my life and giving up was not a choice for me. He encouraged me to sell books for a year, then I was able to begin my studies at Montemorelos. Since then life is not easy, but I have the strength from my Savior. I have continued selling books to earn most of my tuition. Sharing God to the people is an unforgettable experience and priceless. It has been an honor for me to learn so much, especially to depend on God. Looking back on it now, I am sure it was God’s hands that carried me. Currently I am in my fourth year of Medicine at Montemorelos.

I became an Adventist Christian at age 13, along with my mother and 3 brothers. My dad left home because of our new faith and he does not support us with any money at all. We were so devastated about how we could get food and pay the bills. Today I can say that I feel loved by a GOD who embraced me when Daddy disappeared from our lives. The God who holds my hand when I am afraid from financial difficulties. The God who allowed me to feel His presence, I believe in God, the God whom I have come to know as father, as Abba — Daddy.

I appreciate your help and support for my dream, and pray the Lord to obtain a special blessing for you.

Sincerely, *Ana Luisa*



Memorial Gifts

In Memory

Bechtel, Dave & Jim

By Ruby Bechtel

Eslinger, Walter

By Ruth Wiebold

Gordon, Neville

By Gwen Emmerson

Locke, David

By Don & Marilyn Locke

Anniversary

Larry & Virginia Siemens

By Bessie Lobsien

Since there are many students needing assistance, your Student Aid contributions are placed in a General Fund and distributed uniformly among those with the greatest need and potential. *Thank you!*

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL OCCASION GIVING

Amount: \$ _____ Date: _____

Given by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In behalf of: _____

Anniversary Baptism Birthday At Rest _____

Please send card to person below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: M.P.I. ♦ P.O. Box 1950 ♦ Bozeman, MT 59771

Please send me additional memorial forms (Number) _____

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TO:



Moving ahead in 2010

Mission Projects, Incorporated (MPI) is a supporting organization of the Seventh-day Adventist church, dedicated to spreading the Gospel by way of medical, educational, and evangelistic endeavors. MPI works in complete harmony with local Conferences and Missions, does not accept tithes, and is a member of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI).

YES—COUNT ME IN!

Please return this card with your tax-deductible donation to:

M.P.I. 1 P.O. Box 1950 1 Bozeman, MT 59771

Indicate amount donated to each fund

\$ _____ La Loma Luz Hospital (Belize)	\$ _____ Church Building Projects
\$ _____ Bibles/Literature	\$ _____ Church Roofs
\$ _____ Worthy Student Fund	\$ _____ Use where most needed
\$ _____ Lay Workers	\$ _____ Other _____

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Home Phone # _____ Change address to billing address