



# MPI UPDATE

Mission Projects, Inc

May-June, 2010



*New Church in Willows Bank, outside of Belize City.*

Page	2	President's Corner
Page	3	You <i>Can</i> Go Back!
Page	4	One Day Church Photos
Pages	5-7	Desires of our Hearts Answered • Board Meeting
Page	8	Musings on our Belize Mission Trip
Page	9	LLLAH needs Surgeon • Planned Gift
Page	10	A Knife to His Throat
Pages	11-12	Gifts and Memorials • Donation Cards

## Moving ahead in 2010



**Ed MacKenzie**  
**MPI President**

# The President's Corner

## *Dear MPI Supporters*

2009 was very busy year for Mission Projects and it has not let up as we move forward through 2010. We praise God for all of the good things that have transpired over the last couple of years. This newsletter continues with reports that you will want to read regarding Mission outreach in Belize as well as in other places of our world.

I think of our Lay Workers who go door to door to share the good news of Christ's soon coming. They work long and hard. Only eternity will show the rewards of their efforts and your support that translate into souls for the kingdom.

We will be sharing a number of updates at our upcoming board meeting to take place on June 20, at Mt Ellis Academy/Montana Conference headquarters. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

As I write, today is the day that La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital is scheduled to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, ("MOU") with the Government of Belize to partner with the country for its Dialysis Program. This is a program that has been in the planning stages for almost a year. We thank the hospital's administrator for all of the time that he has spent going back and forth to Belize City, attending meetings to make this program a reality for the western and southern parts of the country. There is a lot that will still need to be done before the program is ready to go. Updated reports will be forthcoming as the program progresses.

As reported in the March-April report, there is a real need to provide a security fence for the hospital. Various fencing options are being considered. If you would like to participate in this matching program, please mark your gift for the "Hospital Security Fence". Your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

In His Service,

Ed MacKenzie

**The MacKenzie's travel internationally, conducting Lay Evangelism. 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.**

# You Can Go Back!

*Interview by Wendy Harris*

**Bob** Stone spent some of his childhood years growing up in Belize as a missionary kid. During this trip he was able to go back and work for about five weeks—and best of all bring his family. Listen in on our interview:

**What age were you when you lived in Belize and why did you live there?** I moved down there when I was 11 years old and was there until about the age of 16

**What part of Belize did you live in?** I lived in the district of Orange Walk near the town of Progresso, in the Northeastern part of the country. We built two buildings in that town.

**What was it like to take your family there?** It was an interesting experience to take my kids to that town and show them where I used to live. I think that they were a little shocked.

**What was your favorite part of this trip?** Other than building the churches, I think it was seeing the people that I had known in years past, and seeing the surprised looks on their faces when they found out that it was me!

**Did you see very many people that you recognized?** I did get to see most of the people I had known before.

**What would you tell people that are thinking of moving to work in other counties?** I would first ask if they knew for sure that God was leading them, and then if so; GO for it. But do it humbly. I

have seen many people come into the mission field that "felt" led but when they got there they "felt" that they were very superior to the people and did more harm than good. You have to love the people you are going to serve, and if you don't, they will know it. Only God can give you that kind of love.

**How do you think living in Belize made you a part of who you are today?** It has helped me to understand service and to appreciate what we have here in the States. And also to be happy with what I have. Living in a third world country has given me a wider perspective than a lot of other people I have met that have only lived in one place here in the States all their lives. ♦







## ONE DAY CHURCHES IN BELIZE

*Sabbath School Building for Chan Chen.*



*Chapel for the high school in Calcutta*

*New Church in  
San Pedro near  
Corozal  
(Pictured is CD  
Carter and group  
from DayStar)*



# Desires of Our Hearts Answered

*By Mary Kreft*

**When** Brad and I planned to go on the mission trip to Belize, we had no idea what a blessing was in store for us. We had decided last year that if we went on another mission trip, we wanted it to be one that we were able to build something. We were totally unaware of how the Lord was already working to answer that desire, and to a far greater extent than we ever would have imagined!

Buying a ticket was a step in faith because we really didn't have the funds for it, but the Lord eventually took care of that need. We bought them several months in advance, hoping to find a bargain. The best deal we could get would cause us to have to leave quite a bit of time before the rest of the school and would have us there for over a month. It seemed like such a long time to be away, yet we felt like we should do it. With permission to leave early, the tickets were booked. The Lord doesn't do anything by happenstance, so we learned shortly the reason for leaving prematurely.

Jerry Harris and his family left for Belize some time earlier in November to work on the plans for the churches that needed to be built and to help with the evangelistic series that Jerry's brother was involved in. He knew there would be some time when an experienced builder, Gene Witzel, who would be available to show us how to put the churches together, but was scheduled to leave before the school would be arriving. It worked out that the beginning of our trip overlapped with the end of his to give us enough time working with him to learn the building process. Now we understood why the Lord worked things out for us to leave early.

Some of the people we worked with on the church building projects were people we knew fairly well, but others became very familiar over the next several weeks. We had the blessed opportunity to work with couples and individuals from Arizona, California, Utah, Canada, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Honduras. There were those we worked with that were as young as 12 and as old as in their mid 70's.



A few of the friends we gained that stand out to me were C.D. and Beth Carter. They were in their mid 70's and had lived as missionaries in Belize for many years. This return trip meant a lot to them because they figured they would probably never have the opportunity to come back to Belize again. C.D. and Beth were from Tennessee and immediately we took a liking to them due to their friendly country twang! It reminded me of home and southern hospitality. We became good friends with them and really learned to respect and appreciate them for their dedication to the people in Belize and their spirit of Christ-like devotion to the needs of those around them.

C.D. and Beth brought with them a gentleman named Scotty, who was agile as a monkey in his flip-flops! Scotty worked really hard, but did it always in his shorts and flip-flops. He would even get on the roof in them! He was continuously calm and non-complaining, very easy to get along with and willing to do whatever needed to be done. We contributed his energy and calm spirit to his unique raw diet. He was very interesting to talk to and became a favorite with staff and students alike.

Before the students arrived, some young adults came to help out with this project. Janna and Aimee Smith were really sweet sisters that desired to see what it would be like to build "one-day" churches. Janna's fiancé Andy came along and also a friend named Josiah. My son Justin joined us during this time and they all proved to be really great workers and a spiritual encouragement to us. We were able to take some time off one Friday and went with them to Guatemala to visit the Mayan Tikal Ruin. We had a lot of fun getting to know them in both play and at work. We felt a definite kindred spirit with them.

Some members of Moab Church were able to take time to work in Belize with us. Sonny, Donna, and James Ottenger joined us for a few days building and playing. They were in Belize over Christmas, so after we



staked a church in the Corozal District Christmas Eve, we went to a Mayan Ruin and then travelled to Belize City to catch a water taxi to an island called Caye Caulker. We had a tremendous amount of fun with driving over speed bumps, snorkeling, and just enjoying each other's company. Lorraine Guild and her grown son Delroy spent some time building churches with us. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and sharing in their enthusiasm for putting these churches together. Each time someone left, there was always the thought that we would never have as much fun with the next group or have as good of a team to work with. This proved untrue with-

out fail. Every group worked just as hard and were just as much fun as the previous, giving us a variety of memories to look back on with smiles and warm fuzzies.

When the students finally came, Brad and I had already built eight churches and staked many more. We were uncertain how they would fit in with all that needed to be done and wondered if they were up for the long hours and the hard work. When they were divided into two separate groups, one going south with Steve and Les, and one going north with us and with Bob and Sonja Stone, we were definitely concerned to learn that we were going to have only three boys and the rest girls. I remember thinking, "How are we ever going to get this work done with all these girls?!" Well I was sorely rebuked! The girls turned out to be excellent workers and we not only conquered the churches they gave us to do, but we built a couple of extra ones.

The day I told the students about one of the extra churches, was one of the hottest days we had and was after we had just finished building a



church that wasn't originally part of our schedule. We had actually built two churches that day and were excited that we had only two more that needed to be done. The students were drenched with sweat and quite exhausted when I presented the new proposal. They were given the choice to build another church or not. One of the students asked the question whether the church would get built if we didn't build it. The answer was no. We then took a vote and unanimously the group decided to add another staking and building to our list. This was probably one of the most impressive moments for me this school year from the students.

I'm thankful we had the opportunity to visit Belize, build churches for our brothers and sisters in this country, and to meet so many godly, fun-loving, hardworking Christians who have become good friends. The Lord truly did answer the desire of hearts, not only to be a part of a building project in the mission field, but to experience the blessing of Christian fellowship. We know we gave of ourselves, but we believe received so much more!

## **Mission Projects Inc. Summer Board Meeting Sunday, June 20, 2010 9:00 A.M.**

**The meeting will be Sunday following the Montana Campmeeting, on the campus of Mount Ellis Academy. or 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**



# Musings on our Belize Mission Trip

*By Eloyce Mundall, Member Othello, WA Mission Team*

**When** I learned that our church had chosen La Loma Luz in Belize for its mission trip at the end of 2009, I was *surprised*. Our family lived at that very spot for a time in the 1970's. My husband, Jon, was a physician volunteering there and assisting his dad, Dr Ray Mundall. Back then I lived in great hardship, with insufficient food to meet nutritional needs. The local needs had been great not just medically, but economically, spiritually, and educationally, including basic sanitation practices, etc.

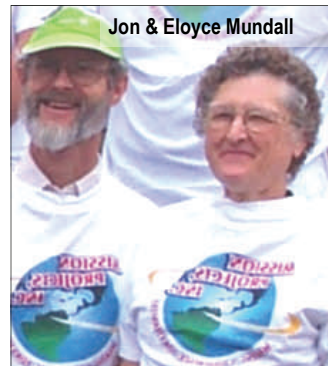
I was *amazed* when I was asked to go as part of the mission team. Since I had been heavily involved with assisting Jon as a nurse while we were living there, as well as having worships with the group of teens and children that hung around—a role which I had thoroughly enjoyed—I was curious to see how conditions locally might have changed. Belize! With both excitement and dread I was soon on my way with our church mission team of 15 members.

What did I find this time? To my great joy I did not see one starving baby. The children appeared to be clean, well dressed, tall for age, and normal for weight. The economic conditions have improved considerably. Grocery and clothing stores are now open. Open-air markets sell imported produce from Mexico and Guatemala. The food was great at the hospital, complete with whole wheat bread baked by the hospital cooks. What a wonderful change! Produce had been very difficult to purchase in the 70's. Weeks could go by without a fresh fruit or veggie. Beans, white rice, potatoes, oats, canned milk, sugar, white flour, salt and oil were our main diet three times a day.

It was also my first time to see the now finished La Loma Luz Hospital. It is a beautiful place, well kept with many acres of mowed lawns around the buildings. The hospital is equipped to do surgeries, deliveries, CT scans, X-rays, and labs. The administrator, Grant McPherson, is a man with a vision. He has been working with the leaders in high positions and gaining influence with them. Great things are in the wings for the future of the work there.

All of the members of our group kept very busy between building a storage shed, filling in as hospital cooks, doing radio talks on health, preaching, doing a Christmas program at one of the churches, teaching Pathfinders and Adventurers, and training their leaders, among other things. The days were long but everyone kept well and took pleasure in being able to share with our neighbors.

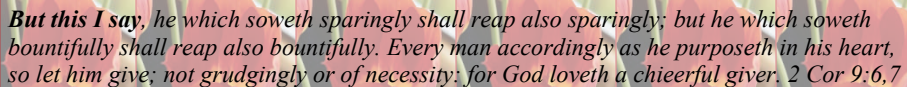
The needs are still great there. Our group hopes to return for a follow-up visit to encourage the church schoolteachers and other church leaders, including Pathfinder directors, to stay the course. ♦





## 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: [mcperson\\_grant@hotmail.com](mailto:mcperson_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 chieerful 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.

# San Lorenzo School

## A Knife to His Throat

*By Tito Lopez, School Director*

Shortly before Christmas, our District Pastor commissioned each of San Lorenzo's eight teachers to hold a Week of Gratitude series in different villages. Teacher Arcenio began his meetings at the church in Monte Horeb.

After the meeting on Christmas Eve, Arcenio attempted to catch a bus to the town where his family had prepared a special Christmas meal. But all buses were packed, and after much waiting, he hitched a ride in a passing vehicle. However, this particular car carried drug traffickers. When they got to an area in the mountains with dense jungle growth and steep cliffs, the driver stopped and ordered him to give them all his money. All Arcenio had was \$15 pesos (worth just over a dollar), his Bible and hymnal.

The enraged men beat him up, made him stand at the edge of a steep embankment and put a knife to his throat. They intended to kill him and dump him over



Arcenio



Arcenio is happy to be with his family

the edge, where nobody would ever find him. Knowing he was going to die, Arcenio pleaded with his assailants to let him pray and commend his life to God. They told him to make it short, and as Arcenio prayed, he felt impressed to jump backwards over the edge. Crashing through vegetation in total darkness, he came to a stop about 50 feet down. His head and back ached.

The angry men above fired their guns in Arcenio's direction, but he was safe behind a large boulder God provided for him. As soon as the men drove off, Arcenio painfully limped toward his town, staying away from the road in case the evil men returned. He got home at 6:00 on Christmas morning, thankful to be alive. And his family is grateful to God for sparing his life.

Arcenio still teaches school in spite of recurring back pains. But he's devoted to training young people to serve God, and intends to continue doing so as long as God gives him life.

**Note:** MPI provides \$500 per month for San Lorenzo teacher salaries. ♦

# Memorial Gifts

## In Memory

Velda Judson

By

Glenn and Rosemary Lewis

*The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we also shall bring our gifts to Him. Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, our highest mental and spiritual endowments, will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us. --Desire of Ages p 65.*

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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### NEWSLETTER

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## 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 tithe, 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 _____

I'd like to make my gift by charge card:  Visa  Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ CSC Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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