

March, 2009

Belize

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Account #12698

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. They keep me going during the tough times and give me encouragement when I think of the sacrifices you are making during these difficult economic times. Much has been happening here in Belize since I last wrote to you.

The town elections have come and gone. During the weeks before the elections the town was bustling with sewer and road improvements, new sidewalks, free dirt being given away, political rallies and concerts (some till 2:00 AM) and parades. It all ended with the party that was doing all the work re-elected for another term. All has returned to normal, some of their projects have been completed and others are yet to be finished.

These last few months I have been continuing with teacher observation, moving into the realm of video observations. This has allowed the teachers to see what we have been talking about as they view themselves in the classroom. Many have said "I see what you've been telling me." Eyes and hearts are being opened and God is working in the teachers. Change is slow, but we cannot change what we cannot see and understand. Many of the teachers are realizing that habits are hard to break and they can't do it alone. That's when the door opens to point them to the Gospel. We need to come to Jesus every moment of every day to be able to do that which we cannot do. Change has to happen in the heart first and then work its way into other areas of our lives. That realization is beginning to take place through the one on one mentoring. With each observation I see teachers integrating more Biblical Truths, less behavior problems, and better classroom management. Some are growing in these skills faster than others, but all seem to be making progress. Learning how to show God's love and grace in how we manage a classroom has been a key focus in the work I'm doing here. Keep praying, we still have a long way to go.

On March 14th, I had the privilege of attending the first graduation ceremony for the Belize Presbyterian Theological Seminary. For five years these men and a woman have been attending classes. One woman and three men received certificate from Miami International Seminary for the coursework



they've completed. Two of the men Leogardo Catzim and Ernest Betson completed all the courses required to be ordained into the Belize Presbytery. They will be preparing for ordination over the next few months. Mario Ku has almost completed his Associates level. It was exciting to see bus loads of family and friends travel from as far as three hours away to be a part of this celebration of what God is doing in the church in Belize. Not only was the sanctuary full, but many overflowed into the walkways surrounding the church.

