



# GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS

We hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas. It is important for families to get together and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We were blessed to have two very special people take the time to visit us this year. Clyde & Geraldine Redwine. All the way from Texas. Geraldine was the New Mexico Children's Home administrator when we worked there in 2008-2009. She has been a great friend over the years, and in fact this is her second trip to Belize. It can be very lonely during the Christmas holidays especially when you live out in the jungle basically alone. No friends and no family, but the Lord pressed upon her heart to lift our spirits and spend some time during the holidays. A personal congratulations to them both on their recent (3months) wedding. We didn't know Clyde but we were blessed to get to know him on this trip. This was also his first time outside of the U.S. We think he had a good time and we certainly enjoyed having them both.



One of our supporting churches donated the funds for us to purchase some canning equipment and jars. While Geraldine was here she taught us how to make and can some star-fruit jelly.



We have a star-fruit tree, but it is very sour and unfortunately the fruit usually rots on the ground. Now we have a very good use for the fruit. The jelly was great. We thank our supporter for the funds and Geraldine for teaching us how to can.

## Christmas 2013



Cindy with Bernie, Tino, and their brother Kevin. Kevin is eight and was put in a children's home in Ladyville since he is attending school. With nowhere else to spend Christmas, Social Services asked us to take him. We were afraid that he would cause a setback in the progress we had made with the two boys, but couldn't deny Kevin a Christmas with his brothers. It was the first time he has seen them since being taken from his home. It breaks our hearts to think of all of the turmoil these children have endured.

With that said, we did have quite a setback with Bernie. He immediately reverted back to the boy that arrived three months earlier, and we are still trying to work through his emotions and frustrations to bring him back to the point he was before Christmas.

On a lighter note, Tino is making great strides in his growth. He is walking like an old pro, and doing a lot of jabbering. He will be turning one in January.

Nap time, and I don't know who is more tired, me or Tino. We are doing the very best we can under the circumstances, but we fear we will not be able to continue taking care of these little ones without some help. We are still looking for someone to join us in this ministry.



Taking care of the mission base is a two person plus full-time job, and taking care of these precious children is also a two person full-time job. So, we are asking if you or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord and His children please get in touch with us.

Bernie and Shaka helping out with the yard maintenance; trimming banana trees, and hibiscus hedges. We strive to always include Bernie in everything we can. It helps him feel needed and instills a work ethic. He really enjoys doing the work and is quite a little helper. He helped load all of the leaves.



## The New Year

The year 2013 is gone never to be repeated. We look to the new year. But, while we do look back on the blessings from the Lord, we can see His mighty hand in everything. We can't say we always understand what He is doing or why, but we can say that we serve Him in what ever capacity He asks of us.

These are definitely uncertain times we are living in, but none of it is a surprise to the Creator. As we look to the future, we don't know what it holds for us, or even where the Lord will ask us to serve Him, or how. We firmly believe that we are to remain where He has placed us until He directs us to leave. For now He has placed us in Belize taking care of children in a crisis situation. He has always provided all that we need for us to accomplish the task. And we continue to rest in His promise to never leave or forsake us. As you look to the new year would you consider being a part of helping these children. If Tino could talk, he would say.... "I deserve to live in safety, so thanks for making that possible".

