

# GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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## ***Culture, Culture.....and more Culture***

Most of us never give culture any thought. It is just life. The way we live. The things we do. The way we act or think. In secular life, in our own culture, it really doesn't matter much. But in ministry, and especially in foreign missions, it is what we live or die by. It is the ability to share Jesus or not. Our every thought and action has to be in the light of the culture we live in. Not the culture we are used to, or grew up in, but the one we now live and work in. When called by God to minister in a foreign land, it is the essence of success or failure.



**Cindy and Noemi working together to prepare a Belizean meal**

There is no class we can take to learn local culture. In most cultures people won't tell you they are offended. So we interact with the Belizeans and try to be receptive to what they say, or don't say. It takes constant effort and many apologies when we do offend them. It is learned by trial and error. Think about this in your own life and try to imagine being in a different culture and how you would handle things.

We have come to the conclusion that the people best suited to reach Belizeans, **are** Belizeans. They know the culture, language, and the intricacies of life in their country.

After our Bible study, Noemi said to me that she was very blessed in the class. She learned how to manage a problem they were dealing with in their new church. A common practice here in Belize is to curse someone. That curse is taken seriously, even to the point of disrupting that person's life. The cursed person was going to quit the church to avoid contact. The parties involved are new believers.

In our Bible study we are studying Genesis, and were going over Noah's curse of Canaan. It was exactly what Noemi needed to help these new brothers and sisters through their disagreement. God is so good in His Providence. He used us as His tool to assist in the lives of His children. What a blessing for us that we were able to be that tool.

*....you shall be My witnesses...even to the remotest part of the earth.*

## **New puppies on the base**

June 16th, Kwipaya had eleven very healthy and active puppies. Seven females and four males. We plan to keep one of the females to replace one of the dogs that ran away in January. That will give us two females and one male. A great breeding program. It will also give us the security we need on the base. Cindy is going to be the active leader for this new pup. She is feeling neglected since both Kwipaya, and Shaka consider me their leader.

## **The upgrade continues.....**

We are in the process of upgrading the facility dormitories by installing toilets and sinks. But first the sewer pipes have to be dug up and lines ran into the dorm. We have started and hope to have the first one installed before the retreat scheduled for mid-August.



**Shaka taking time away from security to "help" with the sewer lines.**

## **Praises**

- The rains have started so we can stop watering everyday. Unfortunately that also means mosquitos.
- With the sale of our motorcycle, we have bought a used Yamaha quad for our trips into town.
- The Lord continues to use us in His ministry.

*I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me. Psalm 57:2*

The Lord heard our cry and touched the hearts of His children and they responded. We have received several encouraging e-mails since our last update. Some have also decided to join with us in this ministry by supporting us financially. We praise the Lord for His working in people's lives. It is by His Grace that we can continue to serve in Belize, and we rest in His assurance that He will meet **all** of our financial obligations to His Glory.

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1 John 3:16-18

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