

GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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La Nina

The Girl Child came to visit us and she stayed for many months. La Nina, as we are told, brings drought where El Nino brings rain. Well the Boy Child came for a visit in 2013 and we had amazing amounts of rain, more than five times our annual rainfall. So I guess it only makes sense that we would get no rain a couple of years later. Our "rainy season" starts the beginning of June and runs through November. During that time we get about 100 inches of rain. It usually comes with steady frequency every couple of days and will rain somewhere between one and six inches. Of course there is more rain when a tropical depression or hurricane comes through, but we haven't had any of those either. We had a couple of good rains early in May and then the drought began; here it is the end of September and virtually no rain of consequence. This drought is far reaching and effects everyone and everything here. The picture above is what is left of our plantains. What the drought didn't kill the sheep pulled over trying to find something green to eat. They have practically eliminated more than five years of growing in a few months. They have also demolished the hibiscus, coconuts, pineapples, and started on the young citrus trees. We put a fence around the citrus and were able to protect them for now.



The local farmers have reported a 100% loss of all of their rice and corn crops, and the sugar cane will most certainly show the loss in the sugar content when it is harvested in December. Coming from the desert in Phoenix we are used to no rain, but there it is normal, here it is not. We continue to hang on and do the best with what we have and trust the Lord to take care of us, as He always does.

"Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
Matthew 6:31-34

Return Visitors



Every year we look forward to the return of our annual visitors. Late September brings the toucan, chachalaca, and of course the hordes of bright green parrots that fill the skies. Here is a baby iguana that fell into a water bucket on his way somewhere else. He is glad we found him and not the cats. Recently a four foot iguana passed through. He wasn't bothered by the cats. Early in the morning as we do our devotions we are serenaded by the clicking sounds of the toucan calling his mate.

Incubator update



Last month we told you about the incubator we made so we could hatch our own chicks here at the base. The incubation proved to be a total failure and also a total success. All of the chicks died in the eggs, but the success was that we learned what not to do. The fault lays completely on operator error. Three times the temperature dropped too low and once the lamp filled the incubator with soot. Of course any chicks that lived through the low temperature died when the eggs were covered with soot. We have cleaned out the incubator and made some equipment improvements and started again with fifty eggs.

Spiritual Renewal

We have been experiencing a spiritual drought in our lives much like the physical drought that has been plaguing the land. We have been working in Belize for almost five years now, and the spiritual battle is bringing us down. With the arrival of the Smiths recently we were able to take some time off away from the base. We found a YWAM facility located on Ambergris Caye which allows missionaries to stay there free of charge.



We went thinking this would be a few days of relaxing on the beach and just "getting away". While it was peaceful and relaxing, what God had in mind for us was so much more than that. The Discipleship Training School that YWAM runs from this base draws Christians from around the world. God used the interaction of these



Christians to give us a time of spiritual refreshment and renewal. We came away from there with a revived spirit and ready to face the battle again. Our loving Father knows exactly what we need and is waiting to give it to us if we only take the time to fellowship with Him. What a great reminder this was for us!

What's Next

With a renewed spirit and a stronger desire to continue in the work the Lord has called us to we will strive to achieve all that He has placed before us. Our work in the church and the lives of the people that attend are our main focus at this time. We are still teaching the book of John on Wednesday nights, and Bill still preaches every Sunday. Cindy is still teaching the children's class, and we are both working with the Pastor, his wife and family. The work at the base is ongoing and a struggle to keep up with each week, but the Lord has once again proven to be trustworthy, and so should we. Thank you all for your dedication to the Lord and to us in this ministry. We praise God for you daily.

