



GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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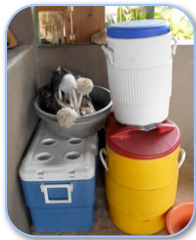
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They're Coming!

We have been getting everything ready for the 24 preteens and their leaders. They arrive in Belize on Sunday July 7th, and we are very excited to have this team coming. Their work project is to build sidewalks on the property. Their evangelistic project is to conduct "Five Day Clubs" in Orange Walk Town.



Hurray!



Generally when we host a retreat it is for only a few days. There has been so much that needed to be done to be ready to host so many people for three weeks. We needed to put in two toilets, sewer pipes and water lines for them. We also had to get the kitchen ready by moving all of our stuff into our "temporary kitchen" in our house. And of course a thorough cleaning of their kitchen including all of the cooking utensils they would need, and getting ice chests and water coolers ready.



This is one of the bathrooms that we have been working on in the dorm rooms. We were blessed to be able to sell our Yamaha quad which gave us the needed money to get these toilets installed before the team arrived. Currently we have installed a toilet in every dorm on the base, and we are working to get the bathrooms completely finished. This one is the closest to being done. The other two are in different stages of completion, but functional. The base has a partially built restroom block. It was started in 2008 but was never completed. We have been able to get it into working condition to provide a place for everyone to bucket bathe in privacy. We hope to have some more mission teams next year that will work on the restroom. It is really needed to accommodate such large groups.

Norman and Bill installing the sewer, water, and electric lines to the dorm rooms. It was important to get these lines in before the concrete sidewalks are laid. Even though we don't currently have electricity on the base we needed to have the pipe in



so we would be ready when we do finally get power. We are ever hopeful that the Lord will provide the funds to put electricity on this base, but until He does we will continue in faith and do what we can. With all of the preparations for the team being done, there is still the daily requirements of living in the jungle. We all do our part to help and keep the base going.

This is Ashley, Norman's wife. She is staying ahead of the grass. Or at least trying to. We have been receiving huge amounts of rain since the season started the first of June. It is nearly impossible to mow fast enough. She is using Bill's "golden" lawn mower to cut the acre and a half we now have. It is Bill's golden lawn mower because he saved this 1960's era "Sensation" from the scrap heap and paid a fortune to have it rebuilt. That was back in Arizona around 1999. He is pleased that it is still going strong. Gotta love American built quality.



Mission Teams

This mission team is very different from so many teams that go out around the world now. So many are set up with one week in-country including travel days and sightseeing time. They arrive do their "mission" for three days and head home. Like a whirlwind. But this team will be in-country working with us and doing evangelism daily in town. Working with children and presenting the gospel message. They will have the opportunity to get to know some of the kids and learn what full time mission life is like. They will work hard everyday doing construction on the base that helps Belizean churches and people find their way to Christ. They will struggle with being away from family and friends. They will find it difficult to not have electricity, cell phones, T.V., radio, A.C. and many other conveniences that we are so accustomed to.

In the end they will be stronger, have a deeper understanding of what serving Jesus means, and they will have made it through some of the toughest weeks in their young lives. **THEY WILL HAVE TO RELY ON JESUS COMPLETELY!** And they will go home on fire for God. We have seen it so many times with these long mission teams, and that is why we think they are the best way to teach people about being a missionary spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We spend our lives everyday just like these young missionaries will experience. We miss our family, friends, country, culture, and so many other things that are not available to us here. But even as hard as it is, we would never consider any other life than the one God has called us to. We rely on Jesus for everything and He has never let us down.

We cannot let Him down.