



GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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Post Eden

That is what we are calling our garden now. Mostly because we have to work so hard for the vegetables we harvest, and also because the work to clear the jungle is so difficult.



Catching my breath

...*"Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* Genesis 3:17a-19



Sunflowers

In those two pictures you see the before and the after. First we chop down the jungle, let it dry about six months, then burn it. Weeds and baby trees grow back during that waiting period, so we have to chop it down again, but this time they are not sixty feet tall!



Once we burn it a second time we are ready for the arduous task of digging out all of the stumps, removing the vines and leveling the ground. In the process we also remove most of the rocks. The next phase is to section out the beds and start tilling them for plants. This involves removing more rocks, more stumps, (the ones we missed) and finally we add massive amounts of compost. The Lord blesses us with fast growing grass so we get the compost by mowing our lawn every three or four days.



You see, although the rain forest grows giant trees the soil is basically useless because they utilize the vast amounts of leaves that drop to the ground and provide the nutrients needed to grow these giants. We are currently growing in our garden....cucumbers, okra, bell peppers, bush beans, asparagus beans, tomatoes, zucchini, onions, cantaloupe, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, butternut squash, cho-cho, habanero, jalapeno, & sweet corn. Not all of these vegetables are available in country so we have to grow our own.

We thank the Lord for the harvest we do get.



Engedi House

A safe place of refuge. Engedi is an oasis located near the Dead Sea in Israel. It is where David sought safety when King Saul was trying to kill him. It is the name we have chosen for our foster care program. God placed on our hearts two years ago to start taking in children that need a safe place to stay. We are working with Belize Human Services and Child Protective Services. It has taken two long years of waiting and paperwork to get here, but we are so blessed to be



able to care for these children. They are Bernadino age two, and his brother Florentino, nine months. We are currently supposed to be taking care of them for three months, however it could be longer depending on the family circumstances.

Twenty five years ago when our children were these ages it seemed to be easier, now we are finding it more difficult and more tiring. They are one quarter our size and yet they consume every ounce of our energy. Those of you with children understand. We are not complaining mind you just expressing a need for prayer. Please pray for our strength and energy. Also, although we have been waiting for children for two years we were very surprised to get these. We received a phone call from Human Services asking if we could take in a sibling group in one hour. Of course we said yes, but we were not at all ready for them. We had nothing that was needed to care for these boys. So we made a dash to town to purchase the items we would need. The foster program here is quite different than in the U.S. The government does not pay or assist with the care or needs of the children that are placed in foster care. We are required to provide everything on our own. That is our second prayer request. Please pray for our finances. The support we have been getting is enough for us to live but not enough to buy the things regularly needed for the children (car seats, playpen, diapers, baby cereal and milk, etc).

More News-Norman & Ashley, (our interns) have found out that Ashley is pregnant. She will be going back to the U.S. in January to prepare for the baby. Norman will follow as soon as his visa is approved. We are happy for their announcement, but without them it will be very difficult for us to do all that is needed here. That is our third prayer request. We are looking for a person or a couple that love the Lord and have a desire to work with children and would be willing to come and join us in the ministry in Belize. Please accept our sincere thanks for your prayers and support.