

# GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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***“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33***

We send out our newsletters to inform you of situations we are going through, and include you in the life we live in service to Jesus Christ. It is never our intention to put any burden on you. The Lord continues to be the focal point in our lives in spite of our difficult circumstances. In fact it is in hard times that we draw on His promises, and His love.

It is also our desire that through our news letters and email updates we can be a blessing to you. When we step out in faith to serve God. We will come in contact with difficulties. In fact the more faith the more trying the circumstances. So, as we report these things to you it is with an earnest desire that you will become more focused on Jesus and His calling in your life.

Our need for more finances is never a focal point in our minds. God knows our needs and will provide for them in His time and in His ways. We will continue to trust in Him and His provisions. We consider our lives a sacrifice for His Glory, and the only true thing that we can offer our Savior.

### A personal testimony from our past

In 1998 we were going through some very difficult times in our life. Cindy was laid off from a job she had for 13 years. With the loss of her income, we were not making our monthly expenses. In fact we were behind in all our bills. The mortgage company was foreclosing on our house. The electricity was being shut off, and our vehicles were broken. My stallion died, our milk cow died, our brood mare died. In short it was some very trying times.

We were just coming into a real life-changing faith in Jesus, which brought some spiritual lessons for us. We knew the Lord was in control of all things, (in fact owns all things) and if He didn't want us to have a house or electricity or these other things, it would be alright with us as well. We continued to pay our tithes, although many from our church told us to quit and save our money for bills.

We refused to withhold from the Lord the small amount of tithe He requires from us. Even if it meant losing everything. One day a friend drove up to our house and said, “the Lord told us to give you this van.” What a blessing it was for us. Mostly because it proved the Lord hadn't forgotten us. He cared enough to provide a working vehicle.

Life seemed to become better after that, and we were able to catch up on our bills and keep the house. It was a very trying year, but the Lord kept His promise to never leave or forsake us.

I was promoted to a new position at work,

and my salary increased considerably. Enough to cover all the bills and catch up the ones behind.

In 2001 the Lord took us to a new level in our spiritual lives when He asked us to step out in faith and sell all we had and follow Him. It was an easy decision considering all He has done for us. We did as He asked and joined Him in His ministry. We've never looked back.

As we go through these difficult times of ministry, low finances, and trying living conditions we remember all He has done for us, and that we owe Him more than we could ever repay. So, it is not with difficulty that we say, ***“all to you Jesus, for your Glory”***.

Not everyone will agree with our beliefs but it is the way we live our life each and every day. God continues to stretch our faith in many ways. Although we currently don't have the finances to stay ahead of our living expenses, we look back to 1998 and remember how the Lord kept His promise and we continue to rely on Him for all things.

### Rusty arrives in time to help with our first church retreat



Helping in the kitchen

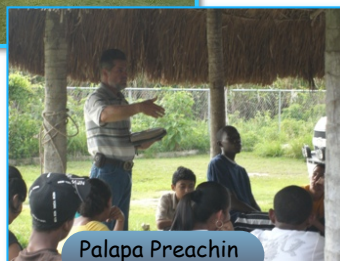


Taking some time to enjoy the sights of Belize at Lamanai, Mayan ruins. A fantastic boat ride, complete with a local visitor, who came aboard looking for some bananas.



### Northern Region Baptist Church Youth Retreat

We were blessed (and just a little tired) by 60 youth from the Northern Region Baptist Church Association. They held their annual youth retreat at our facility recently. They played games, swam in the lagoon, and spent time in fellowship with youth from the surrounding towns and villages. Bill was asked to give the Sunday morning sermon. He preached on the retreat theme of “Being Good Stewards” telling them that their lives were a gift from God which they were to use to bring glory to Him. We pray that you are striving to do the same!



Palapa Preachin

In Christ, Bill & Cindy Griffin 1 John 3:16-18  
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