

# GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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## Smiths Arrived

The Smiths have arrived safe and sound to Belize. Their trip here can only be described as a testimony to God's grace and protection. Two adults, three children below the age of five, and the youngest an infant. A bus from Salt Lake to Las Vegas, a plane to Phoenix, and finally arriving in Cancun Mexico. A bus trip across Mexico to Belize and we finally picked up the tired group at the bus terminal in Orange Walk at five thirty in the morning. Forty eight hours of total travel time.

Eight checked bags. Even for seasoned travelers a trip like this is very difficult, but they came through with little sign of stress. They have been getting settled in and adjusting to life in the jungle with no electricity, the stifling heat, new house (18'x18' new



church, work around the base, shopping Belizean style, and Matt's on-line college courses. All in all they have been doing well. It is not easy to uproot your entire family and way of life and shift to jungle living. They recently submitted their application for a work permit.

We are hoping and praying that it will come in without any complications and arrive soon. Not having to pay for a monthly visa will help with their finances.

We are very glad to have the Smiths with us and have had many enjoyable hours talking about ministry and getting to



know each other. Although we have known of one another and have even had our paths cross many times throughout the years with Teen Missions, we have never really had the opportunity to become friends. We love to talk about the experiences we have had on the mission field and of course, since we have all had many trials, we can relate to each others difficulties, anxieties, pains etc. What a blessing it is for us that the Lord has seen fit to send workers of like mind to help us in the work we are doing. We don't have any idea what the Lord has in store for us or the Smiths in the future, but for now we are all blessed to be here together in the jungle learning and living with each other.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9  
 "For I know the plans that I have for you", declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

## Other Stuff

Bill likes to try new things and see if they work. We have wanted to increase our layer population, but the chicks are very expensive, (well for us they are) two dollars a piece. Plus, we have still not recouped our initial investment so we can not see buying more chicks. There is large demand for eggs now



since the local growers had to kill 60,000 layers due to a chicken virus. People are continually asking us for eggs. Bill saw a sketch of a kerosene incubator on the internet and figured he could build one. How hard could it be? With supplies we had laying around the base he built the incubator and now we have forty eggs in their first week of incubation. It is a difficult thing to maintain the constant temperature needed, but with due diligence we have been able to stay on top of it. It might surprise you to know that keeping the temperature down is the most difficult part. With our average temperature running 93 it doesn't take much heat to reach the desired goal. Our layers have hatched a few chicks but they have not been able to do better than a 20% hatch success. So we are going to give it a try. Bill has already spoken to a feed store in town and they are willing to buy at least twenty chicks a month at a cost of one dollar each. That is a much better price than the 10 cents we get for each egg.

## Rabbits

We have had good success growing our rabbits and are in need of adding additional nest boxes. Here is how they are built: 5 gal. bucket with an access hole in the top and a rabbit hole in the front. The whole thing gets buried with concrete



while there is an entry tunnel for the rabbits made from cinder blocks. Once it is finished the rabbits have their babies in the buckets where it is cool/warm as needed without fear of being hurt by the chickens or trampled by the sheep.



This is the finished product with a doe inspecting the new nesting quarters. We currently have more than 30 rabbits.



## Thanks

We would be remiss if we didn't thank you and praise the Lord for all of the support we receive each month. Without you none of this or the other ministries we are doing would be possible. We know that you give each month out of your dedication to the Lord and a desire to be involved with us on mission. Please pray for us the 14th-20th as we will be taking a week off to rest while we have people to watch the base. We will be relaxing on the beach for the first time ever in Belize.