



# GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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## In the Beginning

In 1998 the Lord gave us a vision of what we understood to be a boy's home. We were fairly young in our Christian walk and so we were working very closely with our pastor to help us understand what God was asking us to do. We started researching and making plans to start a "Boys Ranch". We have come to realize that the Lord has given us a desire to care for children in need. Our call to full-time missions in 2001 came through the Lord revealing to us the needs of the children in Africa. We answered the call and went to Zambia to work with children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic.

Since that time, we have worked with a children's home in New Mexico and a youth drug rehab program in Arizona. Upon returning to Belize we were made aware of the large number of children effected by neglect and abuse. In 2011 we started the process to be foster parents to children in need. It has taken two years for us to be approved and to become Foster Parents. We are now taking care of two small boys and realize the depth of the need.



Helping out

## Plans for the Future

In keeping with the original vision that God gave us, it is our desire to continue to grow the current ministry into a Christian Children's Home. We would also like to start a church and a Christian school in the Honey Camp Area where we live. Currently we are only able to care for children below school age because we are too far from town and existing schools. The mission base we have been building since 2005 is perfect for these plans. We are ten miles in the bush which offers seclusion and safety from the dangers associated with living in town. We have sufficient room to grow a large garden, bananas, plantains, and many, many fruit trees. In our original conception of a children's home, we wanted to teach the children beyond academics to



include farming, landscaping and other life skills that they should get in the home but don't usually receive at a children's home. In our program the children would be actively involved in caring for the property and working in the garden.

Test driving the new buggy

## The Vision

There is no way that we can even begin the process until we have sufficient help. Many years ago in ministry, we learned never to begin a program that cannot be maintained or completed. It is not possible for us to take this program beyond caring for one or two children by ourselves. And so we are putting out this plea for additional people with a calling for this type of ministry. As we mentioned before, our current inter; Norman and Ashley, will be leaving in January and so even taking care of foster children may have to be put on hold at that time until the Lord sends us the help we need. We are looking for at least four to six full-time workers to enable us to take this ministry to the next level. When the Lord called us back in 2001 He gave us a verse that truly brought home the need and His desire for His children to join Him in the work He is doing.



## It became our ministry verse.

1 John 3:16-18 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

The needs of the ministry do not just involve caring for the children, there is a lot of maintenance and landscaping work to be done also. To take this ministry to the next level that we feel the Lord is leading us, we will need many people with different skill sets. Building maintenance, block laying, teachers, grounds maintenance, painters, and many more. In short we need to be able to build, and maintain the current facilities that will enable us to care for these children.



## JOIN US AND HELP THE CHILDREN

We believe the Lord is speaking to people that receive this newsletter about joining with us to make a difference in the lives of these children. If you have a calling in this area or know of someone who does, please pass along this newsletter or have them get in touch with us as soon as possible. We do not want this fledgling ministry, which is so needed, to be put on hold due to lack of Christian workers.