

Belize Mission Information

March 10-17, 2012

Mission project Working with *Partners in Mission* and the Methodist Church to share the message and love of Christ to Belizeans, while assisting them in building a high school in Belmopan.

Type of Mission Construction, evangelism, fostering relationships

Task

- Assist Methodist Church in Belize in the construction of the high school.
- Continue the construction of the high school (laying concrete, building forms, etc)
- Assist in leading Revival/Anniversary Celebration at Belmopan Methodist Church
- Build relationships as we work on the projects
- Encourage students in their faith in Christ

Tentative Week

Saturday, March 10—Leave CS for Houston, flight to Belize

Sunday, March 11—Worship at Belize Methodist Church, prepare for work/meet with pastor/time with Belizeans.

Monday, March 12—Thursday, March 15 Work sites, Break, Work, Possibly visit with Belize students, Revival/Anniversary Celebrations, after work activities, evening worship

Friday, March 17—Day of sightseeing (cave tubing, Mayan ruins, possibly beach)

Saturday March 18—Flight to Houston

<i>Tentative Costs---</i>	Air	\$700-\$900
	Room and Board	\$300
	Transportation	\$50
	Day of Fun	\$50
	Total	\$1100-\$1300

Mission Team Meetings The adults, college students, and youth who are serving on the mission team will be required to attend. These will focus the purpose of mission, logistics, team building, and construction skills. Parents of youth going on the trip are encouraged to attend the first team meeting. First team meeting is December 7, 2010 at 6pm

Belize Missions Website www.belizemissions.org

Center for Disease Control <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/belize.aspx>

Camalote Camp www.camalotecamp.com

If interested in going, please contact Elley Fisk at elleyfisk@am-umc.org or 979.846.8731

Deadline for registration and \$150 due by December 1

Project Proposal

Belmopan Methodist High School

Country Belize, Central America.

Project Location 57 East Ring Road,
Belmopan, Cayo District

Project Title Belmopan Methodist High School

Implementing Agency Methodist Church, Belize/Honduras District
P O Box 212
75 Albert St
Belize City, Belize, C.A.

Contact Persons Rev. Roosevelt Papouloute: District President
Tel: 223 2241 Cell: 610 4421

Rev Kofia Nials: Minister-in-Charge,
Belmopan Methodist Church
Tel: 822 2866; Cell: 601 2457

Project Executive Committee:
Rev Kofia Nials (Chair)
Mrs Audrey Bennett (Secretary) 8022839
Mr Cuthbert Burrell 8022397
Ms Gladys Lockwood 8022397
Ms Marion McNabb 8222297

SUMMARY

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Education in Belize is delivered through the partnership between the Church and the State, commonly known and referred to as the Church - State Relationship. In the present system, the State or the Government of Belize provides grants, most notably a monthly salary grant for school teachers. The responsibility for the proper management and operation of the schools rests with the Church. While primary education up to the age of 14 is 'free' and compulsory, secondary education must be paid for, and due to the

lack of places, depends not only on income, but also on achievement at primary school level; universal education past primary school is not a given in Belize.

Education is one of the primary indicators used to measure the development of a country, and as well as being a preparation for the labour market, it is about character development and social participation¹. Whilst the government recognizes that something needs to be done, and has allocated the largest slice of its budget (23%) to education, one of the main dilemmas is the fact that school resources are not enough to meet the needs of the nation's children. Exclusion from education is one of the worst forms of social disadvantage for a person, and leads to numerous problems for society in general. One of the main fears in Belize is that these youth who do not attend school, end up becoming involved in gang culture, violence and drugs. Data from Dr Gayle's research in 2010 (page 110) shows an alarming rate of exclusion at secondary level: whilst at primary level 16.3% of that population are not in school, this jumps to 59.3% for the secondary age (62.6% for males; 55.9% for females).

The overall population of Belize is currently over 312,000² with around one half being under the age of 19³. While school statistics differ depending on source, there is a definite agreement that the percentage of youth attending high school is far too low, and that in Belmopan as elsewhere in the country, the main problem is the lack of High School places available, with the demand growing faster than the supply of new places, and projected to continue increasing, as the Cayo District has the fastest growing population, with Belmopan second only to San Pedro (on Ambergris Caye) in terms of urban growth rate⁴.

In 2008/9, Belize had a total of 51 Secondary schools; 25 of these are Church / State Partnerships, 15 are Government schools, and 11 are private or specially assisted schools⁵. Of these, only 6 high schools are in the Belmopan area, with a total enrollment in 2010/11 of 1760; the 13-16 age range population from the 2010 census was 2848, meaning that over 1000 young people of high school age are not attending, and primary school leaving number are consistently higher than high school places available. Anecdotal evidence suggests that on average students need to have a Primary School Examination (PSE) leaving grade of around 70% to be considered for high school entrance in Belmopan. Alternatives taken up by some students include; travelling to either San Ignacio, Dangriga, or Belize City, although there is also high competition for places in all these centres. Another alternative is to attend the 4H programme for technical training for 1 year, with the hope of either re-sitting the PSE and obtaining a better grade, or of moving on to the technical training at ITVET or CVET.

¹ Report on Male Social Participation and Violence in Urban Belize; Dr Herbert Gayle, 2010, p107.

² Statistical Institute of Belize: 2010 Population and Housing Census

³ Statistical Institute of Belize: 2009 Mid Year Population estimates

⁴ Statistical Institute of Belize: 2010 Population and Housing Census

⁵ Report on Male Social Participation and Violence in Urban Belize; Dr Herbert Gayle, 2010.

Secondary schools in the Belmopan Area

	Actual			Projected			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
No. of Secondary School in Bmp Area	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Secondary Enrolment in Bmp Area	1,663	1,776	1,760	1,827	1,896	1,967	2,042
Form 1 Student Bmp Area	515	622	613	731	873	1,042	1,243
Primary Enrolment BMP Area	7052	7,190	7,353	7,566	7,785	8,010	8,242
Std 6 Bmp Area	692	657	729	772	818	866	917
BMP Area Primary Graduates	536	658	630	688	752	822	898

The final alternative is to look for work; however, without an acceptable level of education, employment is difficult to find. Unemployment in Belize runs around 23% nationally, but for those in the Cayo District with only a primary school education this rises to 32%; for those completing high school, it drops to 12%⁶. Thus it becomes strikingly obvious how important it is for the youth to have the opportunity for an education at high school level.

Methodist Background:

The Methodist Church is one of the three larger denominations that established both primary and secondary education throughout the length and breadth of Belize and continues to play a very vital and critical role in ensuring that the State and the Church meet their obligations by delivering education to all. Currently, the Belize/Honduras District of the Methodist Church manages sixteen primary schools, nine pre-schools, one high school and one Junior College in Belize. In addition, in the Honduras side of the Methodist District, it manages three further education establishments, the Utila Methodist Community College and the Methodist Bilingual Centre of Roatan, and a preschool in El Pino.

⁶ Statistical Institute of Belize: 2009 Mid Year Population estimates