

## 5<sup>th</sup> Trip to Belize is an Answer to Prayer



Prayer is something so many of us take for granted. However, it's not only how we communicate with God with our words of thanksgiving, worship and praise but how He often brings heaven to earth through our requests, petitions and intercessions.

Such was the case on our second day in Belize this year. We arrived at Ms. Marcelina's house early that morning to build her a ramp. Many on our team had met her last year and given her a cane to use so when she recognized us conversations started flowing like we had never left. She took several folks up the rickety stairs to her one room house and showed them her hand made embroidery which was a work of art frugally made from scraps of thread. When we gave her a hygiene kit with a Bible she excitedly showed us her own Bible sharing her favorite verse, John 3:16.

After a bit of visiting our team of construction workers began tearing down the old stairs and cutting, digging, drilling and measuring to erect a new two story ramp that Ms. Marcelina could navigate as she went to church each week. It was an all day affair but looked and worked great when it was completed. As Ms. Marcelina walked down her new ramp using the rollator we gave her she began to share with our team how she had been praying for help and how thankful she was that God had sent us to meet her needs. It was so humbling to think we were God's answer to her prayer but also exciting to be a part of God's team doing His kingdom work on earth.

Interestingly enough, we heard this same story from Ms. Mary for whom we built a ramp back in 2016. In fact, as our team entered her house looking to find a down trodden woman who had just lost her second leg below the knee, they instead found a cheerful lady praising the Lord for answering her prayer for help. She even smiled as she said, "I was just praying for help this morning but had no idea God would answer so quickly!"

The amazing thing about God is that He often begins answering our prayers before we even ask. So while we are fervently praying, in many cases he has already acted. These two godly women took the second part of **James 5:16** seriously and believed that **"the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."** God's response was nothing short of majestic as He brought them answers from another country and across part of an ocean. It reminds me of the verse in **Deuteronomy 33:26** **"There is no one like the God of Israel. He rides across the heavens to help you, across the skies in majestic splendor."**



These experiences make me think about not only how and when I should pray but what I should expect as God answers in such gracious ways. I know many others for whom we built ramps, gave medical supplies, food packets, Bibles, hygiene kits and of course wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and canes during our visits and at the Expo outreach were praying for God's blessings too and I am so thankful He called each of those who served to be His ambassador, His hands and feet and His answers to bring more of heaven to earth and expand His kingdom in Belize. ☺

