

## The Body of Christ at Work in Belize

Every year it takes so many people to make things happen for our mission trip, outreaches and Expo in Belize. It literally takes God working in the hearts and minds of hundreds of His people for it all to come to fruition. Basically, it is the Body of Christ at work. People following God's calling and leading to do their individual part to get things done. This often happens without fireworks or even a single person noticing a faithful task completed. However, God knows. Furthermore, God knows that no person is any more important than the other, no task is of more value and no skill is of more use. It takes us as God's people to follow in obedience to Christ to see His miraculous masterpieces unfold. Of course, as none of us follow and obey perfectly, it often takes several divine interventions to see the accomplishment of his good work here on earth. ☺



His work for Belize each year starts with collecting used but in good working condition mobility items like wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, rollators and canes, and unused medical supplies like gloves, bed pads, diapers and diabetic items at Expos throughout the year in West Palm Beach, North Texas and East Tennessee as well as from various other sources like the Healthcare Store in Hurst, TX. Once items are collected, they are then transported to central areas in Florida and Texas to be cleaned, inventoried, loaded onto semi-trailers and taken to ports in Miami and Houston. This takes a lot of folks bringing things in trucks, cars and vans, loading and unloading items in and out of storage and then even more people to count, clean and fill out paperwork. Whew, makes me tired thinking about it!



Once everything is on the ships in November and headed to Belize our great in country ministry partner, Hearts of Christ, does their part by having the two 20 foot containers full of mobility items and medical supplies transported to their mission in Roaring Creek, Belize to be unloaded and stored until our mission team arrives. They also handle all the Belize charity exemption and duty paperwork for us, which is a big task!

Then in January our mission team finally arrives in Belize for a week packed full of activities. We hit the ground running as days 2-4 are filled with not only sorting, organizing and cleaning things again, but also going into the local community distributing Bibles, hygiene kits, food and building ramps. This year we conducted a special pediatric outreach two hours away from the Hearts of Christ facility for 20 Belizean families in need of equipment. While there our Hearts of Christ and Access-Life teams came together to build a 50 foot ramp for a future special needs camp.



On day 5 we begin our final preparations for the Expo with the much needed help of a women's team that arrived on day 4. This brought our co-laborers for Christ's team to nearly 40 folks comprised of 16 Access-Life volunteers from Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, Ohio and California as well as 11 women with the Hearts of Christ women's conference group from Tennessee, Texas and South Carolina plus more than 10 local Belizean volunteers. Many different personalities, skills, experiences and homes but united in one mission: to share the love and Gospel of Jesus with individuals and families living with disabilities in Belize. On day 6 [EXPO DAY] people arrive at the mission gate early and we all work together fitting wheelchairs, giving away needed medical supplies, playing games, doing arts and crafts and more until late in the day. As usual God made it a blessed success. I mean, how can you not accomplish great, noble and good things with and for God with a team built by His call and those who responded in obedience?

All in all, from our outreaches and the Expo at the Hearts of Christ facility 280 Belizeans were served, two ramps built, 72 wheelchairs fitted, countless rollators, walkers, crutches, canes and medical supplies were given out and a suction machine and 2 oxygenators were donated to our good friend "Doctor Mike". Many, many, many Bibles, food packets, hygiene kits, snacks and extra fun gifts were also distributed to families and individuals living with disabilities locally. Most importantly the light and love of Jesus was poured out on us all as we blessed and were blessed all in His name. We were even given a 30 minute spot on Belize TV to share about the ministry and mission. ☺

I hope you notice that no names were mentioned specifically here although there are many that could be recognized but I pray this helps us all realize that God has gifted us each and no one person nor gift is more important than the other within the Body of Christ. This also applies to those with typical abilities and those with any type of disability. A person with a heart for God will always accomplish the most for God regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

