



December 2018 Fishers of Men Newsletter

**COME FOLLOW ME! I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.
MARK 1:17**

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Thankful to Serve Where He Calls

We are thankful to be home in Belize. Readjusting and settling back into the norm for the past month. Feeling like a fish out of water in my own country was strange, until I remembered **to where the Lord called** me. Being in the USA was only for a season. He had made our calling sure...

Gissell's last scans were clear of all cancer. St. Jude's says she is in remission. We, knowing and seeing the path **He led** us on, the doors He opened and the hand of our Father God, claim His healing.

Thankful the Lord has given Gissell a time of reuniting with family and friends. Such a blessing for us to watch and participate in.

We, too, have been reuniting with ministry partners and friends that we consider family. On January 8 -12 Gissell and I travel back to Memphis for her 3-month scans.

We treasure each of you, that supported us in the US as well as here, and for those who helped Gene with so much while I was away. Thank you!

Hello everyone, hope you all enjoyed your time with your family and friends this holiday season. We have had a blessed time with our Belizean family and friends here. I usually don't write in these newsletters, but I was asked if I would at this time share my thoughts now that could be a dangerous thing.

As I think about the prospects of the coming year, I am encouraged by the possibilities of a couple of new teams that might be added this year. Liz and I are always looking for more and better ways to serve our Belizean brothers and sisters and these new teams can do just that. I am also always excited about our teams that come faithfully year after year. You guys are the backbone of Fishers of Men and without you we would not exist. So, thank you for being committed to the task and so faithful to serve. Ephesians 2:10 (GW) "God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do." Keep up the good work! -Have a blessed new year hope to see you soon. - Gene

The Past, Present and Future ...Reflecting on God's Faithfulness

Fishers of Men-Belize, along with **Prairie Lakes Church**, are continually honored to share in God's work at **Martin De Porres Blackman Eddy School** providing dental care for 100+ students, the staff, and numerous community members. 2018 is the seventh year of service and ministry to the village. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness.

As we listened to the educators' hearts and watched them teach, they told of their love for the children and their instruction allowed each child to grow to their maximum potential. This is a very special school filled with special people. *The 2019 dates for PLC September 14-21*



Mr. Tuyub, Mrs. Cocom – Principal / teacher, Mrs. Danna, Ms. Veronica (Missing is Mr. Jorge Rivera)



Every January, a group of men come from all over the US to "Build Belize". For the past five years, Gene and I have watched this team morph into bigger and better things. In the group, lives have been touched and changed. Their friendships have become stronger with each other and to those they minister too.

Whether they are here, or there, by phone, or email many of them have become a constant support for Gene and me. We are very blessed to share ministry with them.

On January 19-26, 2019 Burt Odom will lead 40 men in the building of a pre-school in the village of Camolote. All for the Glory of our Lord.

You can change a life while building relationships using your gifts and talents.

February 16-23, 2019 the Decatur Dental and Medical team will complete their ninth year of ministry to the Valley of Peace. Working along with missionaries Dan and Vicki and the health care workers Darlene and Daisy of VOP, team members continually re-affirming their love and the Love of our Savior to the students, parents and the community. **Dates for 2020** are February 8-15



I personally enjoy this small but very faithful team of ladies as they come year after year and minister to the ladies and children at Santa Elena Baptist Church. Watching this team has caused us to see “our plans are not His plans”.

We have watched as Satan has tried hard to sabotage the ministry and work of this team, by his various attacks. However, the smallest of teams is changed to one of the strongest. We continually see God glorified through them. FOM is looking forward to **May 17-24, 2019 for this team with NEW and EXCITING things coming. See page 5 for details.**

2019 Team Dates

January 19-26 Men's Ministry Team

Contact: Burt Odom- bodom@emjcorp.com

February 16-23 Decatur Dental Medical

Contact: Dr. Paul Bishop- paulbishop.asb@gmail.com

March 16-23 PLC Student Ministries

Contact: Merri Cross- macnjac91@hotmail.com

May 17-24 Woven Together Ladies Ministry Team

Contact: Jerri Serman- jerriserman@bellsouth.net

September 14-21 PLC Dental Team

Contact: Connie Erpelding- connie.erpelding@prairielakeschurch.org

We have room for
You!

Where will you
serve?

The following testimonies are what make us Fishers of Men

In January of this year I wrote, how I had thought a lot about the mission statement of FOM. How serving others in ministry does not always fit our mold or our imagination of ministry. How most of the time the Lord takes us completely out of our comfort zone to teach us new things; Sometimes for us to learn how to love on His children, sometimes it is to teach us and mold into His image. Maybe to teach us just how to love as He does. Every time He does it is ALWAYS FOR HIS GLORY.

Glancing back and pondering over each team and their testimonies. I see the same pattern of God our Father taking each of you out of your zone of comfort and bringing Glory to Himself.

In this Newsletter I wish to share with you a reflection of each of your teams, how God the creator allowed you to be part of His wonderful work. A reflection of testimonies from some of you as the Lord revealed Himself and His work to you.

Only you can testify of how He has used what He revealed to you this year, to change you and draw you closer to Him. I pray the Lord bless you as you read.

From team member Lindsey-

It's hard to believe that I would need to go to Belize to hear God and see Him work, as if He only resides there. But He always shows up, every year, or maybe it's me finally showing up. This year, my Dad went with us, and it was sweeter than ever serving God side by side with my Dad and watching him be touched by the evidence of God's work.

Serving somebody else in Belize with all the guys is like nothing I've ever experienced. The work always seems overwhelming and impossible and yet God multiplies the efforts of our hands and finishes the work that He brought us there to complete. The best part is this, the work he brought us there to complete is never the actual project we are building.

From Lisa Kruse first time visitor... As a newcomer to the mission field, working alongside Fishers of Men-Belize for a week opened my eyes to new experiences, new relationships and new vision. The world is big, it's not just in my backyard. People live in different ways, they find importance in different belongings and they come from different backgrounds. But what is the same...an appreciation for human kindness.

While the main task of the mission was to provide much-needed dental care, other mission opportunities were happening simultaneously. It was beautiful to see everyone coming together for one purpose....to be a blessing to those around us. While God puts us all in different locations, with different backgrounds and skills, it is a love for Him and a love for those around us that is the connecting bond. Blessings are found in simple gestures and smiling faces.

This opportunity not only brought dental care to those in Belize but gave a group of God's followers the opportunity to become friends, to become family. I took home a broadened vision, a humbled heart and a greater appreciation for God's children, both at home and abroad.

Until next time, Belize. God's blessings to you

Fishers of Men would love for you to share your talents with us in
ministry to grow God's kingdom

Building New on old Foundations

March 16-23 will bring a new ministry to Fishers of Men. **Prairie Lakes Church** will begin their relationship with the community of Selena village. PLC's student / teacher's ministry will open new opportunities for us to walk beside the teachers and students of Iguana Creek Gov. Primary School. We are very excited and eager to see what the Lord will do.

May 17 24 2019

We are so very excited to announce that Fishers of Men and the Women's team are adding a new twist to our Ladies Ministry. "Woven Together" is an invitation to each of the US ladies. The new twist...

- **You are invited** to a "Ladies Retreat" hosted by FOM and Ministry leaders of Belize - **It's your turn** to be ministered to.
- Each day Belizean women will lead in ministry, worship, crafts and fellowship.
- It is a time for two countries to be "Woven Together" in ministry
- **open to all ladies 18 and up**
- Each evening our US group will lead in ministry at Santa Elena Baptist Church

We are asking for your prayers. FOM feels a strong pull of God in this new but old ministry. I will be sending out flyers soon.

We hope your Christmas was Merry and Bright. Wishing each of you a blessed and prosperous and peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing God move in 2019 in our lives and yours.

On site Missionaries for Fishers of Men Belize
Gene and Liz Watkins

