



April 2021

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

Excitement and thankfulness fill my heart as I am writing today. It has been way too long concerning team updates. Thankfully after a year we have one! The only regret is that the team was serving in the US and not in Belize. No matter what seasons bring times of work, fellowship and retreat allowed these men to serve and seek Him. It may not have been Belize, but it was where God had them this year for such a time as this.

Still, many uncertainties facing us. Our prayers and hopes are for our teams to return safely to the passion of our hearts for serving the Belizean people. I can say we are getting much closer to announcing what that will look like for all the teams. Until then stay faithful to Him.

April the Lord has shown us His faithfulness. Our FOMs Men's Team began a new mission. [No, not Belize], but the US. Around 40 men embarked on the ministry of "Shepherd of The Ozarks" Christian Youth and Family camp, in the state of Arkansas. They helped the ministry to prepare the camp for the summer youth and family camps. They also enjoyed much needed retreat and fellowship time.

The men traveled from 9 different states, in cars, vans and airplanes then returned safely to their families. So thankful and blessed that we had our FB ministry followers covering each of them in prayer. Not one person to our knowledge was injured or sick.

Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness.

After the team's arrival, the men were served a typical Belizean dinner of beans-rice and stewed chicken. It seems the team leaders wanted to keep things as close to what would have been in Belize. They were so thankful to the camp staff for helping to do just that. From what I heard the coolness in the air was not a reminder of the Belizean climate.

On Sunday they were led in a morning worship service by Burt their team leader. The rest of the day was spent hanging out around camp, hiking, fishing and just getting in gear for Monday.

It was so refreshing and exciting for this group of men, as they caught up on the year that passed, shared God stories, prayed together, encouraged each other, fellowshiped, and then worked together...

What a week they did have!



On the last morning Jim Miller camp owner/director and FOM Belize attendee gathered the men around this cross. The cross was in a hole and had not been set yet. They stood the cross up straight and Jim asked each one to pick up a rock, which represented a burden, and place it in the hole around the cross. The burden there was left there. It was a powerful ending to a great week.

A stone with the FOM logo will be erected by the cross as a reminder for future campers of the work FOM accomplished.



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isa. 43:19

Here are some pictures of the guys working on multiple projects in small groups throughout the week: finishing out interior and decks at a new cabin called "Piney Woods", replacing steps at the dining hall, replacing a large deck at one of the cabins, replacing 25 ft support posts, and building new picnic tables and benches.



The team ended a fabulous week with the Lord. The work spiritually and physically accomplished will be enjoyed for generations to come at Shepherd of the Ozark's. May the lives of each camper young or old, who comes upon the grounds this summer learn of Jesus and be blessed beyond measure. May they carry with them a life changing experience.

For each man, who served we pray a blessing over you that the Lord Jesus has allowed you an experience that has changed your lives. As you go your separate ways go telling others of what Christ has done. Praying traveling mercies over each of you...in Jesus Name!

Thank you for your time and sacrifice. - Fishers of Men



Important Reminder

Fishers of Men board met with team leaders and have **postponed** tentatively scheduled teams until January 2022.

Fishers of Men is currently involved in serving other ministries in Belize through your financial donations. Baptist Training Center, Freedom House prison ministry, feeding programs for single moms, A Better Belize (ministry to Camalotte Village), medical needs and others just to name a few as we see needs arise. If you wish to donate and become a part of the ministries in Belize, you may send your donations to:

Fishers of Men International - P.O. Box 387 Selma, Alabama 36702-0387 or visit Fishers of Men website

fishersofmenbelize.org

Thank you for your donations and support may the Lord continue to bless you, so you may be a blessing to others.

UPDATE COVID- Borders and future in Belize

The Belizean borders are still closed except to tourism. As the country begins to open slowly the government still has several stipulations on those returning. You can now enter freely into the country with being fully vaccinated. However, coming back into the US is a different story. A vaccination and a Covid test 48-72 hours prior to returning seems to be the norm. At least for now. Our update is as follows.

The **COVID cases** in Belize have peaked and become steady. Many Belizeans has been vaccinated; many are awaiting their second injection. **However,** after Easter the numbers once again have begun to climb. We are awaiting to see how it all comes together.

With curfews and restrictions being lifting on travel within the country the government has not lifted medical or dental team restrictions. So far only global medical teams for life threatening conditions are being allowed to have approval.

Uncertainty, of several factors in our ministry,

1-working with the schools and them not fully open, (appears that the schools will not open until next September)

2- the government still restricting medical missions as well as large teams

3- people need to stay in places the government have considered safe places., like resorts, or personal homes. As of now camp lodging is minimal.

FOM board and team leaders have opted to wait for our and your safe return.

Again, thank you for your patience and support and your prayers.

We will continue Fishers of Men's ministry in the US working with and through our leaders as they feel the Lord leading. Our FOM teams will continue in serving the Belizean people and ministries by empowering those we are involved with.

As your FOM missionaries we ask you to pray for all of us here and in Belize.

Please note changes in future dates...

2022 Team Dates- All dates are tentatively.

Men's Ministry Team

January 15-22, 2022 Contact: Burt Odom- bodom@-emjcorp.com

Decatur Dental Medical

February 19-26, 2022

Contact: Paul Bishop
paulbishop.asb@gmail.com

PLC Education Ministries

March 12-19, 2022

Contact: Merri Cross-
macnjac91@hotmail.com

Ladies Ministry Team- May 21-28,2022

Jerri Serman- jerriserman@bellsouth.net

PLC Dental Team

September 10-17 2022

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

Update from Heman, Jomie and BTC

Heman- sends his greetings to all. He wants you to know that he is doing well. He misses everyone and feels the camp has been lonely for way too long. He expressed his desire for everyone's return. Heman is still doing dialysis twice a week. Heman, wants to thank each of you for your support and prayers. Please continue to pray for both he and Jomie.

Jomie-As a caregiver, it is extremely easy to become overwhelmed and loose hope, especially on the hard days! But it is so amazing that God sends friends and family to check in with you at the right time and bring that hope back into your life! Thank you all for your love, support, encouraging words, and prayers that you generously keep pouring over us! ☺

Update from Gene, Liz and Gissell,

Gene and I are still serving the Lord and Belize here in the US. Even being far away connections and ministry runs deep. Trying to be good stewards of FOM's time and ministry donations. Our hearts still long to be with the people and country of Belize. We anxiously await the time the Lord tells us it is time to return. Until then we will be obedient in this season and where He has placed us.

Thankful! My heart is full of thankfulness, for having special time with my dad before his home going. Now for the time He has given me to ministry and love on my mom, our daughters, and precious grandchildren. Also, an incredibly special great grandson. Thankful for a time of refreshing and drawing closer to our Wonderful Savior.

Gene just returned from the men's team retreat in Arkansas. He speaks of how wonderful it was to reconnect with the men whom he has grown to love and calls brothers. He too is thankful for the time of refreshing and a deeper commitment to the Lord.

Gissell, is doing wonderful. She and I are getting ready for another trip to Memphis, St. Jude's. It is time for scans and tests. She stays busy by finishing up her first semester of college (online) and doing great. Her desire is to finish her education in the US then return to Belize. She too misses being in Belize and her family. Again, her medical team would have her to stay in the US. So, for now...

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Fishers of Men Belize

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