

March 2014 Newsletter on CBFNC-Belize Missions

The partnership between the Baptist Association of Belize and CBFNC continues to develop as we work together to learn the best ways to be church to each other. We celebrate the opening of the Santa Elena Baptist Primary School with two classes of students and with Anna Hulse, one of the Baptist Bible School of Belize graduates, as the school's principal and teacher for one of the classes. We give thanks to Hal Melton and his Trinity Church of Raleigh for providing leadership and many construction teams for this project. Many other churches has been involved (several in the report section on page two) along with Pastor Manny and others from Santa Elena Baptist Church. It seems that Santa Elena has found they will need more funds and help to complete and open the rest of the classrooms. This may be a place where your church would like to work.

Trinity has moved on to a new project this year—another involved with education. Queen Street Baptist Church in Belize City needed help with expanding by adding a third floor to their existing school. Trinity began work in January and will send another team in July to do a mission VBS as well as continue construction.

Westwood worked west of Santa Elena to help build a new church at Benque. They enjoyed working with the pastor, Rev. Luis Pacheco, who is a graduate of the Baptist Bible School of Belize. New Jerusalem Baptist Church has been meeting in the pastor's home. The Marion group held a medical clinic at the almost completed church in February.

In 2013 Winter Park Baptist Church took their first trip to Belize and worked at a northern church, *Iglesia Bautista Pan De Vida* in San Pablo. The youth did VBS and activities with the children, and a little bit of construction. The matching of youth groups and skills required for construction is an area where CBFNC and EST Henry Baizar are still learning how best to do placements. The Belize Association is working on guidelines that will determine which Belize churches qualify for youth teams.

Julie and Eric Maas are very much a part of God's work in Belize. They have adopted a Belizean, five-year-old Zac, from a children's home in Belmopan. They continue their work with the anti-trafficking organization, Child Development Foundation, and are helping clear land purchased for Belize's first Rescue Home. They house and work with many teams.

The medical team from Trinity got assistance from Eric's affiliation with the Rotary Club in Belmopan while doing a clinic in St. Matthews. They received a new foldable wheel chair for a gentleman who attended their clinic pushed by his grandson in his rusted non-folding wheel chair. How blessed was this family as Grandpa's new chair could be folded and he could ride the bus.

The Baptist Bible School of Belize (BBSB) held its largest graduation in October. It was part of the Baptist Association of Belize Convention meeting in Orange Walk. It was great to see all twelve graduates get their diplomas. Susan Pasour, state side leader for the BBSB, participated in the graduation ceremony. Linda Winslow, Chair of CBFNC Mission Council, and Brenda Hipp, CBFNC Volunteer for Belize Mission and members of FBC Dunn were in attendance. The BBSB met for its twenty-fourth session this January and will continue to operate as funds are available and students have a need for education.

Hal Melton has worked with Henry Baizar to discover two possible projects that would require many churches working together for years to come. The first is building a sanctuary for Sandhills Baptist Church where Henry is the pastor. Their current sanctuary would be renovated into a weekday preschool/Sunday School building. It would be a project to begin in 2015 and continue into at least 2016. The second involves a high school building that Henry and the BAB deem a priority construction project. The school would be built in the remote northeastern village of Sarteneja. Currently, there is no Baptist Church in the village and high school children meet in a rented building. This project will take 3 to 5 years to complete with multiple teams from many churches in NC as well as those in Belize.

The needs of the Baptist Association of Belize for schools and churches, for training of pastors, for medical / dental assistance and for economic and spiritual growth of its members are among those we partner to meet. Many CBFNC churches have a long-term commitment to Belize and have been blessed to see God's work in Belize and in their own churches. Some of the work done in the past year is noted below—a mere statement of work that does little to encapsulate the growth and benefits of God's kingdom among participants.

Work From March 2013 through February 2014

March—Russell Culler of **Westwood BC** created CBFNC Belize Missions Facebook site.

May—**Trinity BC** medical/dental/optometric team held a clinic in St. Matthews and Cotton Tree Villages providing glasses, meds and assistance.

May—**FBC Wilmington College Team** worked at the *Santa Elena Primary School* project.

June—**Ardmore BC** built and installed 31 trusses at the *Santa Elena Primary School* project.

July—**Winter Park BC** (Wilmington) youth did construction and held VBS at *Iglesia Bautista Pan De Vida* in San Pablo

July—**Oakmont BC** youth team did a number of activities with the orphans at Marla's House. They also rocked a driveway and sorted books. Students worked at other sites doing construction, mural painting at the *BTC* and VBS at Mahogany.

July-Aug—**FBC Lexington** youth worked with youth of *Belmopan Baptist Church* to provide VBS.

August—**Trinity BC** installed all windows and doors on the second floor of *Santa Elena Primary School* as well as some plastering/painting.

September—**Westwood BC** did construction on the new *New Jerusalem Baptist Church* in Benque.

October—Linda Winslow of **FBC High Point** & CBFNC Missions Council and her friend conducted a two-day sewing workshop at *Iglesia Bautista Cahal Pech*. Each participant made a pillow case dress.

November-December—**Oakmont BC** did construction at Bethel Disciples International Church.

January—**Trinity BC** began construction of block walls on the third floor of *Queen Street School* in Belize City. The church will complete this task by working every Saturday until July.

February—**FBC Marion** held medical clinics at *Santa Elena Baptist Church*, King's Children's Home, the *BTC*, *Silk Grass Baptist Church*, *Hicattee Baptist Mission* (church plant of *Punta Gorda BC*) and *New Jerusalem Baptist Church* and completed concrete walls on Jane and Henry Martinez's new house.

Plans through 2014

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| May 16-23 | Trinity BC | Medical/dental/optometric clinic |
| June 13-21 | Westwood BC | |
| July 11-19 | Trinity BC | Roof Construction & VBS at <i>Queen Street BC Primary School</i> |
| July 14-21 | FBC Marion youth | |
| July 23-30 | Oakmont BC | Training at Marla's House of Hope |
| November | Oakmont BC | Construction |

BBSB— May 19-23 and August 18-22, 2014 and January 5-9, 2015