



BELIZE
MISSION PROJECT



ANNOUNCING FALL 2020 TRIPS

Week 1: October 16 – 24

Week 2: October 24– November 1



BMP In The Flow



Words fail to adequately describe why we do what we do. To the onlooker, mission healthcare seems to face overwhelming problems with underwhelming resources. However, we recently heard about "being in the flow" and recognized this positive psychology state as what we experience while serving with the BMP. Similar to being "in the zone" for athletes, characteristics of "being in the flow" are having clarity in knowing what needs to be done, being fully immersed with energized focus, losing track of time, outside of everyday reality, no worries about self, knowing the endeavor is attainable, and the experience is intrinsically rewarding.

Dr. Christopher Peterson summed up positive psychology, the scientific study of what makes life worth living, as "other people matter." Theologians have taken this concept and describe the Christian flow to include the love of people and the love of God. The presence of Jesus sensed in the experience.

Gathering with the BMP participants for meals and devotions creates an environment of connection combined with admiration. They come when most won't, recognizing the good in people, supporting others when they struggle, and cheering people on when they succeed. But it is in and through witnessing their work that floods us with gratitude.

Thank you BMP 2019 Participants for being in the flow,
for proving that other people matter,
but mostly for loving God and loving people.

Please consider serving with the Belize Mission Project. Those we are sent to serve anticipate our visit all year and offer gratitude that is both rewarding and humbling. They are waiting. Please come. We would love to serve alongside you!

Marc and Sara Orjansen

OPTOMETRY Clarity in What Needs To Be Done



Arriving with over 2,000 pairs of donated used prescription glasses, new reading glasses and sunglasses, 725 bottles of topical ocular glaucoma, allergy, anti-infection, anti-inflammatory and dry eye medications, the eye care team jumped in and bonded with the other professionals. Seeing many patients that had never experienced an eye exam, there were large numbers with glaucoma, diabetes, cataracts, and previous eye injuries.

Oscar was legally blind due to cataracts. Dr. Nick Colatrella and Dr. Stacy Hinkemeyer knew what needed to be done and found a way to make it happen by coordinating cataract surgery for Oscar.



In January 2020, Larry Mulder, long-time BMP participant, returned to Belize to escort Oscar to his surgery. Although one eye was beyond repair, surgery was successful and Oscar now has vision in one eye!



In Loving Memory

The BMP Family grieves over the loss of Andi and Jeanne. Andi was a dedicated BMP participant for 10 years. Jeanne participated in the last two BMP mission trips. They will be greatly missed.



Andi Grantham

1948- January 4, 2020



Jeanne Huffman

October 23, 1955 - December 28, 2019

MISSION IN ACTION Generous BMP Family



BEANS AND RICE
Our participants donated and distributed over 550 bags of groceries to residents of San Mateo.



STITCHERS OF HOPE
Edith Burns and her sewing group made and donated dresses and hygiene kits. They were a big hit!



FIRST AID KITS
The Pipho family donated first aid kits to many schools.



SOLAR LANTERNS
250 Solar Lanterns were donated and distributed.



MARIA AND LUIS
Maria and Luis were in need; The BMP family donated \$1,000 to help them.

DENTAL • Fully Immersed • Timelessness • Energized Focus



Excitement builds as communities anticipate our arrival. Village leaders announce to neighbors, neighbors tell friends, and friends let family members know we are coming. Many have waited without other options for care. They have heard of the Belize Mission Project and know to look for our familiar nametags in search of pain relief and dental services. They count on us and eagerly greet us when we come.

Before we step into a clinic site, crowds gather. Knowing they are waiting infuses an adrenaline surge for us to get started and serve as many as possible. Time slips by as compassion grows for each patient brought before us. We treat their pain, but the true service is found in the interactions we have in hearing their stories and building relationships.

We focus on restorative care and our hygienists are busy providing our most popular teeth cleaning service, often requiring gross debridement. But possibly, the most visibly impactful are the restorative services provided by our dental lab teams. Frequently fighting the clock, extreme concentration energizes the tasks. Restoring smiles and function results in many of the grandest responses we receive.

FLUORIDE VARNISH PROJECT • Outside Everyday Reality



Each school presents with another opportunity outside everyday reality. The Fluoride Varnish Team was greeted with waves and cheers, high-fives and hugs, all creating a genuine feeling of welcome. Our teams cheerfully presented games and stories to stress oral health education, demonstrations and group activities that made brushing fun, and offered solid advantages to fluoride applications. The experience results in mutually beneficial encounters as our team cherishes the moments spent with the children.

Part of what makes the fluoride team experience special is the evident joy. In our everyday, joy is often tainted due to our demanding circumstances. Stepping out of the van into a schoolyard allows a fresh perspective to reign our thoughts. The children may not have the apparent advantages we deem valuable, but what they do have is joy. And, they share...leaving impactful, joy-filled prints on our hearts.

Special thanks to Dr. Efrain Cima for his coordination of the project and his guidance and support. The team applied nearly 9,000 fluoride varnish applications to the children of Belize.



AUDIOLOGY

No Worries about Self



Through illness and wear, the audiology team continued to see as many as possible. They arrived before the rest of the BMP team and worked in the evenings after regular clinic hours.



One evening in San Pedro, the team saw local residents, including six-year-old, Luisa.

"Luisa's family suspected she could not hear but no previous testing was provided. She was beautiful and appeared very bright as she picked up the testing "game" right away. She had a severe hearing loss that made learning and speech very difficult." Edith Burns, Audiologist



Edith and the team fitted Luisa with hearing aids. Dr. Wil Lala visited Luisa the day after she received care. She had not spoken previously, but now, she was talking with her family!

Dr. Lala reported that "Luisa's life and future are looking great thanks to the BMP. She has started regular school and is doing very well."



MEDICAL

Knowing The Endeavor is Attainable



A request came for our medical team to educate and test for Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown origin, or Mesoamerican Nephropathy, specifically in sugar cane workers. Dr. David Pipho and Andi Dixon, PharmD, researched and prepared to present to community leaders and to test for CKDu.

However, normal testing often gives false negative results. After seeking out other testing possibilities, Andi discovered the high cost of a stat sensor and test strips.

Both Andi and David wanted to approach testing and education in a manner that would benefit Belizeans and help reduce the frequency of CDKu. It wasn't just another problem facing them. It was personal.

David and Andi, along with other members of the 2018 medical team, were in a car accident near Belize City. The care they received left them wanting to return to Belize and "help those that helped them."



Part of the team with Winston and his new van purchased by the BMP Family



Andi didn't give up but instead worked to procure a donation to use a stat sensor and test strips. They were able to screen and advise for further health choices. The team hopes to return to do follow up testing in 2020.





DEVOTIONS

• Love God • Love People

Walking out to the end of the pier each morning the sense of peace and presence was nearly palpable. Each day a participant shared part of their story offering relatable experiences that allowed bonds between us to strengthen.



*There we
become
family.*



There we learned about who we are in relation to who Jesus says He is through His "I Am" statements found in the Gospel of John...starting with believing and remembering the reality of who God says we are:



*We are children of God
We are full of grace
We are forgiven
We are freed
We are chosen,
and we are dearly loved*

Because, if we remember who we are, from there all of our words and actions will flow, demonstrating a great love of God through loving his people.



FOUNDERS REFLECTION

• Intrinsic Motivation



From the beginning of this project, Bonnie and I have witnessed the unique occurrence found while giving of oneself. I have found what I call my "Place of Power" while serving in Belize.

We constructed the mission statement to include an explanation: **To allow participants to have an introspective look into their own lives.**

People who go on mission trips do so because they feel they want to help others. And while they do help, participants receive far more than they give. This is in the form of peace and satisfaction with oneself. It is intrinsically motivating and rewarding.

We all have a variety of problems and issues in our lives. Participation in a mission project smooths those issues and creates a "Place of Power" in times of need.

The changes in Belize require more and more flexibility to serve the people. Participants are returning and building excitement for the work even during the demanding times. Those that have come on the trip for many years continue to share in the lives of one another and with our newest participants. Many count their BMP friends as their closest friends in life. And they see the people they know from Belize as dear friends from whom they have learned so much. We do become family. Thank you for your continued service to the people of Belize.

Yours in faith and service,

Frank and Bonnie Whipps

Strangers Become Friends BMP 2019 YEARBOOK Friends Become Family



THANK YOU, BELIZEAN PARTNERS

Our Belizean partners generously support the BMP. We are taken care of with lodging, transportation services, help translating, security, clinic coordination, coordination of leisure activities and help with food distribution. Not only do our Belizean partners enable our success, they have become friends. We are grateful for their friendship!



JOIN US FOR THE 2020 BMP!

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The BMP provides multidisciplinary services. The citizens of Belize are welcoming and gracious. We endeavor to create a respectful, collegial, family-oriented work and social environment. Everyone is welcome!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
BELIZEMISSIONPROJECT.COM
 AND FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

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