

Dear friends and family,

You know...having young people on our team is a little dangerous; Karina and Benjamin are “on fire” to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Herb and I are more like smoldering embers, but we were *all in* for the Vacation Bible School BLAST that our young friends suggested, and here’s how it unfolded.

Last Thursday, we loaded up our Bible School supplies, and drove south to Seine Bight where our Christ Church members, Miss Ren and Mariluz, joined us as teachers, along with about twenty children. We enjoyed Bible stories, crafts, songs, games, and snacks. I don’t think there is anything as much fun as singing all the “old timie” fun songs with kids. Herb and I still know all the actions and antics, and by the time we finished singing, strangers had become friends.

We finished with yummy snacks, and then stopped for a quick lunch. After nutritious “reinforcements,” we were ready to do a repeat performance at Riversdale. The setting there is magnificent—the ocean and its breezes make the beach location a perfect place for a warm afternoon. However, keeping the craft papers from blowing away was challenging for both the kids and adults. Several moms joined us for the activities and fun. By about 4:30, Herb and I needed to head north, but Karina and Benjamin returned the Seine Bight teachers to their homes, and then enjoyed an evening with friends in Riversdale.

On Saturday morning, we geared up to have another great session. This time we combined my “Kids Club” friends from Maya Mopan with the children that Karina and Benjamin have gathered in Valley of Peace. We met in Valley of Peace, where 20 kids enjoyed meeting each other and learning about how both the serpent in the desert, and Christ upon the cross were lifted up by the power of God for our salvation. At the end of our time together Esvin turned to Herb and said, “This was what I call a good time!”

This week-end Herb and I will head north to join Roldán and Ruth Ríos for Bible School at San Román and Orange Walk. They are expecting about 50 children between the two locations. Because we will be away from the Banana Bank, Herb will record the service this afternoon in order to have it ready to be posted to the Facebook page. If you ever want to join us for church, please visit our site on the Facebook page of Lutheran Mission Belize. It takes a minute to go from the Zoom to recording the service, so please be a little patient, and then you will hear Herb as he greets everyone and begins worship.

The only other news I have to report is a frequent sighting of a young male Howler monkey in our neighborhood. We saw him this morning in a tree on the banks of the river, but by meal’s end, he had melted away. We assume that he is hear because one of his friends told him, “You know, church is a good place to find a nice girl.” We hope to see him make a home and family where we can watch.

We send you Christ’s blessings from Belize,
Markie and Pastor Herb

To support this mission, send contributions to:

**Mission Central
40755 Co Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034
United States**

Just let our friend Gary Thies know that the support is for the Burch mission work in Belize.