

April 2009

CALMS Seminary Team Ministers in Belize

A February 14-21 short-term team made up of five seminary students from Concordia Seminary, a seminary staff member, two pastors and CALMS' executive director Steve Hughey and his wife Grace assisted CALMS' ministry partners in Belize with a number of projects.

CALMS is helping Concordia Seminary, in St. Louis, Missouri, train future pastors to understand cross-cultural ministry, experience a different culture and grow in their skills to minister cross culturally. This program was one of three that CALMS will be leading this year for seminary students.

Since the students have a variety of skills from their previous professions as well as theological training, they were able to use their gifts to help Belizean partners with a number of significant projects:

- In Belize City, seminary students and pastors on the CALMS' team led a Sunday school teacher's workshop, preached at an evangelical church, led an evangelism seminar, met with local pastors to discuss their ministry challenges and opportunities and learn about family life issues in the country.
- In San Ignacio near the Guatemalan border, students built a covered walkway at the Octavia Waight Home for the Aged, prayed with the residents, painted the exterior and interior of the building, dug a new septic tank, led a workshop on confidentiality and helped the home produce an annual report for its supporters. They also met with Mennonite people who live in the area and were able to learn more about that unique people group.
- In Placencia on the coast, students helped equip Garifuna young people prepare to lead a Vacation Bible School later this year with US volunteers who will work with them to reach over 350 children with the Gospel. They also learned about the Garifuna culture and participated in evangelistic outreach to that community.

Students and participants debriefed each day, prayed together, learned about how to share the Gospel, studied the Bible together, and interacted with the many cultures in Belize. They were also able to visit a Mayan ruin, learn about different churches, learn about small-group principles, study missiology together and experience cross-cultural involvement in a variety of settings.



Left: Seminarian Greyson Grenz shares a Gospel bracelet and its meaning with Garifuna children in the village of Seine Bight, near Placencia, Belize.



Right: Seminary students construct a covered walkway for residents and staff at the Octavia Waight Home for the Aged in San Ignacio, Belize during their recent mission exposure trip with CALMS.

CALMS Evaluates Housing Program in Guatemala

In order to expand the program to meet the growing need for decent housing in Guatemala, CALMS recently carried out a thorough evaluation of its housing program in that country March 13-21, 2009.

CALMS board member, David Reed, who has participated in three housing projects in Guatemala, Miles Richmond, a Lutheran from Arkansas who served with Habitat for Humanity in Africa for 10 years and CALMS' executive director, Rev. B. Steve Hughey, conducted the evaluation. They met with the Guatemalan coordinator of the program, Ramiro Peñate, pastors and other leaders of congregations in Gualan and Zacapa, Guatemala where most of the homes have been built.

To date, CALMS has built 18 houses in Guatemala including one built by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida during the week-long March evaluation. Based on the study done by the team, CALMS has the potential to build 350 additional houses using available land which has been offered by the Zacapa congregation, the city of Gualan and the city of La Union. CALMS has also repaired five homes of Lutheran families since beginning the housing program in 2007.

All of the 350 families needing houses are people who do not qualify for bank loans or Habitat housing due to their extreme poverty. About ½ of the families are Lutherans who presently live in sub-standard housing. Those in La Union are among the hundreds of people who lost their homes in a devastating land-slide that destroyed much of that city in July 2008.

In addition to the three individuals mentioned above, two business men from Marco Island Lutheran Church in Marco Island, Florida, Jim Shaw and Wallace Mauer, assisted CALMS and the local congregation in Zacapa with a land use project in order to help the Guatemalan church better use its property to expand its mission and serve its community.

The two business men also worked with Miles Richmond to develop a plan to help develop a new block and tile factory to help CALMS provide better quality and cheaper materials for future houses.

US congregations interested in building or repairing houses, are encouraged to contact CALMS at [HYPERLINK "mailto:calms@calms.org"](mailto:calms@calms.org) calms@calms.org or by calling 314-640-4830.



Left: David Reed, CALMS board member, greets Miltilde Orellana, a widow who received a new house recently built by David's home congregation, Carmel Lutheran in Carmel Indiana. The cross in the background was made by David and presented to Miltilde at the dedication service.

Right: CALMS' housing consultant, Mile Richmond (middle), former housing director for Habitat in Southern Africa, discusses ways to help expand the CALMS' housing program with the church president from El Divino Salvador Lutheran Church in Zacapa (left) and Jim Shaw, a business man and member of Marco Island Lutheran Church in Florida.

Holy Cross Team Finishes Clinic Remodeling in Amatitlan

Four members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida made additional improvements on the Holy Cross Clinic in Amatitlan, Guatemala in February. The Florida congregation had sent previous teams in 2008 to help build the clinic addition which adds several medical examination rooms and a pharmacy. This addition provides needed space to see patients so that visiting short-term medical teams can use the original lake house for housing.

The February 2009 construction team added tile to the clinic floor, stuccoed the walls, finished the electrical hookups and added gutters to the house.

With these improvements, CALMS and its ministry partner, Holy Cross Clinic, directed by Dr. Elry Orozco, can now facilitate more short-term medical teams. For more information about the clinic and the ministry there and to learn how you can get involved, contact CALMS at calms@calms.org or call 314-640-4830.



Left: Ramiro Peñate, CALMS housing coordinator in Guatemala, poses with Magdalena Salguero, a widow who received a new CALMS' house recently. Magdalena, a life-long Lutheran, lives with her disabled son near Gualan, Guatemala.



Right: Pastor Jimmi Jones of Lord's Bank Community Church near Belize City, shows some of the tilapia fish he is growing in his new project designed to help support the growing ministry. CALMS helped support this ministry with purchase of some of the equipment.

Pray for Us...

- Pray for Ramiro Peñate, CALMS housing coordinator in Guatemala, as he provides leadership for the growing ministry there. Ask the Lord to keep Ramiro healthy and to give him wisdom for his many responsibilities.
- Thank God for the ministry of the recent seminary team as they assisted Belizean ministry partners by teaching, serving and encouraging.
- Ask God to bless the ministry of Lord's Bank Community Church near Belize City and their new tilapia and vegetable growing ministry so that it can help support the congregation's growing ministry and provide better diets to people living in the area. Thank God that CALMS was able to help this new initiative with funding and ask Him to provide a small short-term construction team to help further assist the congregation move forward with this innovative project.
- Thank God for the commitment of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida to help construct the addition at Holy Cross Clinic near Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working through Dr Elry Orozco to grow the clinic's capacity to serve the needy people of that area.
- Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would guide the upcoming CALMS board meeting (April 3 and 4) as staff and board members meet to make decisions about future direction for CALMS growing ministry. Thank Him for these men and women who dedicate their time to helping reach people in Central America with the Good News of Jesus and to helping US congregations involve their members in short-term teams and other volunteers.
- Ask God to be with Pastor Ted and Rebecca Krey, new Lutheran missionaries in the Dominica Republic who recently joined the mission team. Ask God to bless their lives and make them to be a blessing!

