



MISIONARY OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER EVANGELISM



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Update letter

Updates and state of the unions are things that are necessary evils. I don't know why I don't write more but its one of those things like midterm papers and procrastination. Well enough rambling. Let me share with you what has been going on. It's funny all the events get mixed up I can never remember what year or month different events happened however, I have two places I get to reference our travels and meanderings. One is my logbook for all my flights there I find a flawless telling of our trips, flights, countries, cargo and passengers. The other is my passport that gives me the rest of the story when I make flights commercially etc.

So according to my passport I made my first trip to belize in 2011. To begin looking for property to develop a project that in my heart seemed to be a critical component to expanding our missionary projects. This program was to be a volunteer training center that would equip, screen, recruit, volunteers,(our most valuable asset in GMI) and send them to our different projects throughout the world.

History



Why start a training center, some may ask? The reason goes back when I first started working in Bolivia. I was asked to direct a high school to which I reluctantly accepted feeling very much unqualified for the task. While working with the aviation program and the school, in the four years we had over one hundred and forty volunteers come through that program; from varying walks of life and continents. The lack of committed and stable volunteers led me on quest to help stabilize the project by working to get longer term commitments from our staff which God supplied. When I left there was a team of people that had been there all from three to six years, and today many of them are still serving there.

You see missionary projects only work with people. Money doesn't make them, it helps only when its connected to good consecrated workers. God holds the means but are we willing to go? I remember years ago and its still the same now wondering where are we going to get the staff for the following year to teach the classes and carry on the work only days before school starts. The harvest is great I pray that God will send workers to the harvest?

Now with the new structure I frame the house in a week and I finish them in a month and a half with a three man crew. The work load framing and laying block is not comparable. The new houses are very cool as they have insulation in the walls and roof. And then the noise is very low in rain thus perfect for classrooms churches etc. We hope to implement the new program to build churches in Mexico and Colombia out of these materials that are light and efficient to build.



The Lord hath done great things for us;
whereof we are glad.

Psalm 126:3

Now this year we have completed three houses using our new method. The methods we are using is the same as one would use in commercial metal framed structures using the same code and guidelines. The interesting part is while we frame our house/structures we insert our stucco backer and insulation which is a 2.5" thick eps (expanded polystyrene) in-between the metal studs. This really is nothing new they still do it some in the states. Then when the building is framed we fasten a wire lath to the exterior and then stucco the walls with about a one inch stucco. However, that not all, we are now pouring concrete roofs on our structures. We have two houses with concrete roofs and we are finishing the design for a concrete roof over truss for churches and classrooms.

So what's the big deal?

Well when we built a thousand square foot house in Bolivia for the pilots the block work took almost two months. (I had a small crew three guys) then to finish the house I took a total of four months.



Pioneering: The Birth of MOVE (Missionary Outreach and Volunteer Evangelism)



Starting a new project how does it work? Have you ever tried it? May be so and then you will understand.

Fact number one: all the mistakes you make can have bad effects for the life of the project. Fact number two: I make a lot and plead with God to help me not make them. Another critical component after people is land. The right property is critical. There are many factors; distance from supplies, road and access conditions, power availability, water, amount of land, type of soil, legal status (deed leans etc.), and PRICE. When we started looking I prayed that God would give me an old resort or something already built. I thought we had something, but we never could get the deal to seal, something always happened. We continued looking and finally found a suitable piece of property, an old farm. It had all the essentials: good road access, titled property, power and water. The property is one hundred acres, near Orange Walk Belize and the price was reasonable. God provided the money through many dear people who sacrificed to help get the project started. Now to build, well not quite. You see everything has a sequence.

First you must get the title cleared in the organizations name. To accomplish that begins a paper work string of events that has not stopped yet. I will tell you, paper work is my least favorite thing to do, but yet it seems that I always get stuck doing it. I think God has a sense of humor. However the Lord did a miracle and something that can take sometimes years was finished in three weeks and we received the title to the property in the nonprofits name.

Now to build

As many of you know building is quite a process. Well I must say I was overwhelmed at the thought of starting over again. In Bolivia I had tools and equipment etc. Eight years and four containers later and now we are set up to build in Bolivia. However, here I have nothing. Again the Lord blessed and we shipped our first container which arrived in May of 2012 and we began to build.



Also we are working on installing electricity which is another critical component to our initial construction phase. God has blessed us so far we look forward to how he is going to bless us in the future. This project is in the palm of His hand and we are praying that God will send the right staff and resources to MOVE.

New construction design



We have a machine that makes metal studs and track used in many commercial construction projects in the U.S. I was first introduced to metal studs in Bolivia while building the Red A.D. Venir television media center. We used them in the interior partitions. I am a framer and in these countries that construction method is viable due to lack of availability in materials used for the external cladding of the structures. When we got this machine to develop a system to build our structures overseas faster cheaper and higher quality. . We began by using the machine to build trusses for churches in Mexico whose walls were made of traditional block construction.

Visa applications were progressing the file was on the director's desk for acceptance. They were rejected for lack of documentation. In my visit with the officer, I am informed that I lack three items. One, a letter that I must draft and resubmit, and a few other things like updated bank statements etc. all of which could be resubmitted until April 8th when the officer will be back in her office. This process I have been working on for four months. The work permits for staff is convoluted as well. After about three months I think I may have the process down. This included getting credentials for all the volunteer staff and several letters from different organizations accrediting their authenticity as volunteers etc. (shrug) bureaucracy. I thought I got out of busy work when I left college, oh well. We finally submitted the applications for the staff currently residing here which is a folder with about thirty pages of documents etc. Time for the process, two months. Well the good news I got my work permit approved. And hopefully in a week or so we will have the results back for some of the other volunteer staff. Luckily not every day is taken with paperwork. However, in the starting of a project it does consume a fair bit of time. A lesson I learned hard in Bolivia, was that of avoiding it would only cause problems later. It was much better to get it all done as fast as you can and establish yourself as law abiding project/institution. God will use that so we have a chance to witness to many government employees and entities of what God is doing. The school registration was a daunting task that we did not want to do, however, for the visas and permits we saw it necessary to register as a school. We will not be giving degrees. It will be treated as a missionary training school. There were about sixty pages that were presented. That went up to ministry of education and back to the Orange Walk district board for recommendation. Two weeks ago we had our site inspection and the paper work has been sent back to the capital for final approval. Please pray that God will bless that process.

Agriculture



We started our agriculture program with an onion patch. We have an acre of onions that we have been trying to grow for the last four months. It's been quite an adventure. What I wish is that there was a big market for caterpillars (the wormy kind). I found that in agriculture there are many things trying to kill what you are trying to grow. Between fungus, caterpillars, ants, nutrients (lack thereof), weeds, and water. It is enough to discourage anyone. However, they are still growing with God's blessing and we are coming into harvest time. We pray that he will bless our efforts and there will be abundance. We hope to take the proceeds from the sale and reinvest it into more agriculture.

Test program starts next week



We are having a test run next week. Our first students will be here to take a one month course to test many theories that we have had. How will they work we will soon find out. Here at the training center there will be no cafeteria. Students are to cook for themselves. How will that work? Last week some of the boys tried and ruined two nice nonstick frying pans as they were scraping their burnt concoction out with a metal fork. Well school cost no matter how you look at it. We are hoping to give the boys a course in tool management in the kitchen. As well as cover some basics in cooking. We are trying to fit a lot of things in the schedule. How will it work we are soon to find out. We are planning on starting a full program soon. May the Lord bless our efforts as there are many things to do yet.

Projects pending

Pioneering institutions is a project that never ends. However, there are very important bench marks that one must reach. We are working finishing the initial construction phase of critical buildings before we can start classes. We need a boy's apartment, two more staff houses and two classrooms.

All the events between and miracles that God has done from providing windows for free, to all the sink and toilets for free, and then the people who gave of their resources to give this project a boost in getting started is amazing. I have seen the Lords hand working and how He has helped us grow so fast. He has a special plan for this place. Sometimes it seems like I am moving so slow but I know that we are going very fast. God is blessing. We now have almost three houses finished, our assembly hall, and a shop. Also our third container arrived Friday march 30th to port. With metal to build eight more structures from classrooms to dorm apartments. (Note: at the end of the update I have a report on the new construction style that we are developing and will be implementing in other projects such as building churches and schools.)

Bureaucracy and more paper work

Well it seems that increased paper work is worse than global warming. It chases me all over the Globe. We started a nonprofit association here in Belize in 2010 in anticipation to the projects that we were going to develop here. Getting our institution to reputable status has been a challenge; everything from opening bank accounts, registering the school, getting visas for future students, work permits for current staff etc. is a world of paperwork and night mares, especially for one who dislikes the red tape of bureaucracy. For example one must learn the process that each of those events entails which is difficult in itself, but suppose after a week of trying to meet with the individual who can inform you of the steps you finally get the list of requirements, which is never complete on the first visit. However visit two and three must be done only if you have already acquired the previously requested documentation. This creates its own problem when requested documents must be sent stateside. Especially if requested on visit three.