

MANNA

April 2007 Vol. 20, No. 4

Newsletter of the
McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Youth Find Adventure on Belize Mission Trip

A dream became reality during the first week of March 2007. The Belize Mission Trip was about giving our church's youth the opportunity to serve on a mission trip—a dream first vocalized during a church-wide visioning meeting several years ago, now an answered prayer in and of itself. Now, looking back on our trip, we arrived in Belize hoping to impact the lives of a needy family and their neighboring village, but we came home from our mission experience in Belize with as great or even greater an impact on our own lives.



photo by Nicki Benoit

The house the mission team built for four needy children in San Antonio, Belize.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,” Matthew 25:35, 36.

We had our fair share of trials on the Belize Mission Trip—the blasting heat, the hard wood/soft nails dilemma, every single vehicle breaking down, trying to catch our plane from Houston back to Atlanta with only 45 minutes to get through customs and to the plane. But God was there showing us His presence with us every step of the way.

One of the most rewarding evidences of His presence came in the way the group bonded together as we worked toward a common goal, reminiscent of the fellowship in the early Christian church. Our team of 23 adults, teens and children worked together and became friends as we served side by side. Everyone recognized it—“We’re all family now!” we said to each other during our Sabbath evening reflection time.

Our time together meant a lot. We had reached over 200 hundred kids through VBS. We cared for 40 patients during

medical clinics. We built a house for 15-year-old Eva and her brothers, Julio, Juan and Antonio.

Youth Ryan Morse says, “It was a neat experience, because I got to see how some people from other countries live and what they do. In spite of the lack of sleep and dealing with the heat and humidity, it felt good to know that we were helping those needy kids.”

Earliten Girean Miller says, “It felt great to be able to help. I liked the VBS the most because I like working with kids. They all have beautiful smiles.”

Youth Megan Keller says, “I liked going on the trip because I got to help a family in need and witness about God to the people of Belize. I’m looking forward to going back to continue doing what we started.”

~Melissa Turner, editor, youth leader
-more mission trip photos on page 7-

The Manna is the official newsletter of the McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published monthly and distributed to members and friends of the church.

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Submissions Deadline: Noon on the third Friday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Submit items in writing at the church office; by fax (396-3433); by e-mail manna@mcdonaldroad.org; or by mail at 5440 McDonald Road, McDonald, TN 37353. Submissions by phone are not accepted.

Electronic Submissions: Submissions may be made via e-mail with the following attachment formatting: Word or WordPerfect documents, Adobe PDF text files and graphics or photos saved as jpeg, bmp or gif files. Please submit electronic files by e-mailing them to: manna@mcdonaldroad.org.

McDonald Road
Seventh-day Adventist Church

“Uplifting Jesus”

Pastor’s Challenge

Adventures in Belize

The trip was off to a rocky start. We had been in Belize just one day and we were facing a host of hurdles. The first was the materials we would be using. Two of our construction gurus, Dan Ford and Derek Raymond reported that the wood was hard and the nails soft...not a good combination. Then there was the bus. After our airport pickup, the driver went back to get a group from GCA. On the way the brakes went out and he narrowly missed going off the mountain. From then on we would continue to experience trouble in both of these areas. By the end of the trip we must have bent more nails than we sunk. We also had experienced break-downs in two busses, three vans and one truck. One van even caught fire momentarily!



Our Vacation Bible School was one area affected by the transportation issues. It became very complicated to transport everybody each night. Usually there were groups in two to three sites that we had to pick up. Without a bus this meant multiple van trips. Plus we had to take all of our supplies and our food for supper. One night we discovered that a 15 passenger van holds 23 people.

Transportation also affected getting the Medical Clinic started. Quite a bit of preparation was required and we needed a vehicle to do it. But after a delay of three days, the clinic turned out to be a success. We treated some 40 people and one dog. Our doctor and nurse saw everything from diabetes to ringworm.

The most discouraging moment came on Sunday, our fourth night there. At this point Dan confessed he didn’t think we would get the job done. You can imagine our prayers that night at worship! And God overruled. The next morning we found very strange weather. It was chilly and gray. The Hospital Administrator said, “David, I have never seen weather like this in Belize.” That day we were able to work all day in order to catch up. This is unheard of in Belize. It’s just too hot to work all day.

In the end, I believe that the trials were a blessing. They helped to strengthen our faith and bond us together. Everyone agreed that we became like one big family. It was exciting for me to see the bonding between generations. The teens became buddies with the 7 year olds. Older folks made friends with teens. Most of all, we discovered the value of every person. According to Dan Ford, we needed every hand to get the job done. In the end, we finished everything except for hanging three shutters!

The highlight of the trip, for me, was giving the house away. I will never forget those four shy children standing on the doorsteps. I can’t describe the joy of watching them cut the ribbon, take the keys and walk inside. Then to be able to sing “Amazing Grace” and look out at the faces of my McDonald Road and Belizian family. To wonder how soon I will stand with them on God’s doorstep when He hands us His keys. ~Pastor David Cook

Sermon Schedule

- “Plug In To Real Power” Sabbath, April 7
- by Pastor Don Gettys
-
- “Pig-Bone Spirituality” Sabbath, April 14
- by Elder Steve Bauer
-
- “Grace Plus Nothing” Sabbath, April 21
- by Pastor Don Gettys
-
- “Trust the Indian Giver” Sabbath, April 28
- by Pastor David Cook

Reaching In

The Last Good Night

By Adrian Boyer

He walks no more among his
Peers
With jovial mien and zest,
But full of Years and weariness
He laid him down to rest.

Nor Summer heat nor Winter chill
Can e'er disturb his Sleep,
For Trials of Earth and mortal Pain
He will no longer weep.

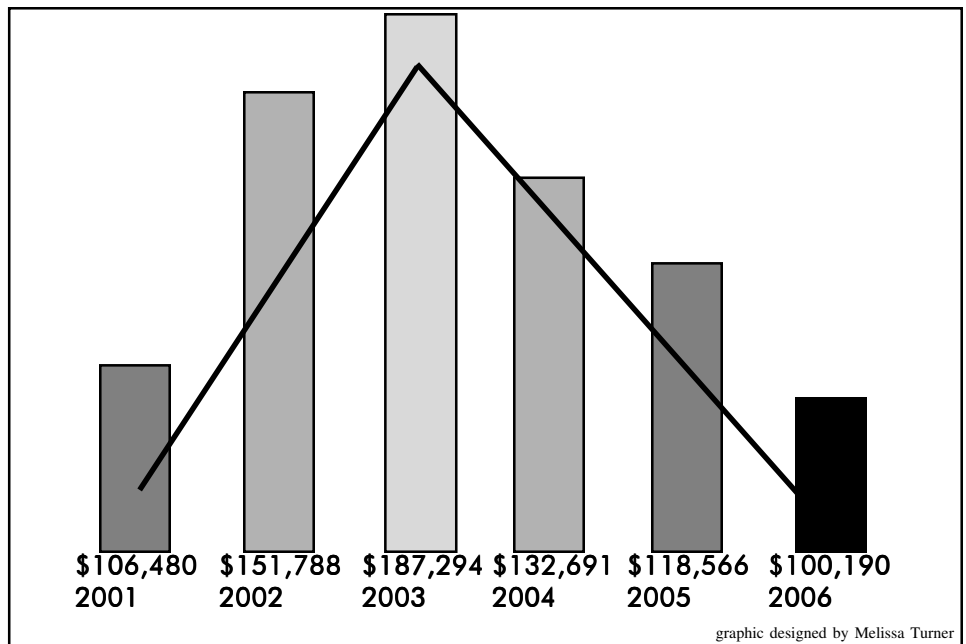
And as the Seasons in their Span
Fulfill their annual Round,
And Birds their early Matins sing
Above his mossy Mound:

In peaceful Slumber undisturbed,
From Dawn to set of Sun,
He rests unmindful of the Times,
For now his Work is done.

And having said his last Good
Night
He breathed a weary Sigh,
As darkness gently closed his Eyes,
And we to wonder why.

And we who walk where once he
walked,
And breathe the ambient Air,
Reflect upon his sterling Life
So full and passing fair.

And while within our Hearts we
miss
His ready Smile and Jest,
When Evening Shadows beckoned
him,
He laid him down to rest.



Time to push forward on paying off the Children's Wing

What do these figures tell you? Putting them in the graph above helps you to see that the giving level for our new Children's Wing started at the \$100,000 level and went close to \$200,000 and now is back down to the \$100,000 level again. The most money was given during construction of our new Children's Wing. While walls were going up the giving was up. Now that the construction is complete the giving has markedly slowed down. In fact, the first few months of 2007 we have not taken in enough to meet our minimum payment on our building loan. This is a serious problem.

What is happening? As a member of this church, you like to give to ministry. I don't blame you. Now that the last nail has been pounded in, has ministry also stopped? Let me tell you an amazing fact: "Ministry" is actually notably increasing but at the same time giving is now declining. Little children are being taught in increasing numbers. Much more than when the building first opened. Our rooms are nice and full. A great deal of good is happening within the walls of our new wing. But our giving is not enough to make the monthly payment on the building.

Warren Oliver is doing a wonderful job as our fund raiser. Warren and I would like to see each family give generously to pay off our loan. We must do far more than meet our minimum monthly payment of \$6,128.00. Our church family has given \$787,008 in the last six years towards the building fund. Outside donors have added \$476,650. This leaves a balance of only \$560,000. That is a lot, but for a family of almost 1,000 it is well within our means. If every family—including your family—would give just \$50 per month to the Building Fund we would pay this off in just two years. Your generous money is funding a Christ-centered ministry second to none in the Collegedale area. We need your help. Some of you are new members. Help us fund the ministry we have so wonderfully provided. Some can do more than \$50. Could you mark your tithe and offering envelope with an extra gift over the next two years to the Building Fund? In Bible times God's people gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work, Ezra 2:68. Thank you in advance for your help. ~Pastor Don Gettys

Reaching Out

Nineteen McDonald Road Members Help Build School in Ecuador

In February, 19 members of the McDonald Road church joined other Maranatha Volunteers International members on a project to Santo Domingo, Ecuador. The site of this project was CADE or Collegio Adventista De Ecuador, one of our Adventist schools in the area. Their goal had many phases--to build the first half of a school, have medical and dental clinics, paint buildings and have two sessions of Vacation Bible School.

Eight of the McDonald Road group were young people from 10 to 16 years of age. They worked on the school, helped with the painting, worked with the medical groups and were a big part of VBS. At VBS they helped as puppeteers, running the PA system, cutting out crafts and working and playing with the children. Most of the children

were not Seventh-day Adventists and this VBS was a new experience for them. Seeing them respond to the love of Jesus for them and wanting to live for Him was an awesome experience. The medical group saw over 900 patients and was a great blessing to the people as many of them can't get medical help because they don't have money for it. The change in the buildings that were painted added new beauty to the campus. The new school building will be for the primary grades and will allow many more children to get an education. They have about 450 children attending now in grades one through high school. The buildings they now have will be used for the upper grades and will include four basic college courses to help train leaders for their country.

We were able to see a little of the country on this trip. Standing at ground zero at the equator was an awesome feeling. We visited gardens with beautiful flowers and birds. Being a part of a ceremony with the Colorado's Indians and learning of their culture was really a neat experience as they accepted us as their brothers and sisters. We closed the Sabbath with them in their village as we all worshipped the same God together. ~Janice Parker, guest contributor



contributed photo

Help Give Young People a Second Chance Through VORP Mediations

Most of us can probably remember some indiscretion of our youth that could have landed us in big trouble. Yet, somehow, by the grace of God, and with the assistance and input of families and neighbors we escaped a life-changing penalty. These days are not the days of our youth and similar indiscretions can launch a child down a path that is almost guaranteed to turn out bad. Fortunately, we have in our area an organization called the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program or VORP. This program of intervention allows non violent juvenile offenders to offer a program of remediation to their victims and by having it accepted and by sticking with it, the child avoids going into our prison system and the victim is made whole. Given that over 400 cases have been handled by VORP in Hamilton County since October 2002 and given that repeat offenders are less than 3 percent, undeniably this program works. Training for new volunteer facilitators will be held April 10th, 13th & 15th. For more information please contact Berti LeWinter at 209- 5144.

Kids' Corner

Uncle Burney's Critter Corner

Compared to the giant Galapagos Island tortoise the Gopher tortoise is a small reptile. The average size is about ten to twelve inches long and six or eight inches wide. There are about three or four species here in the United States. I don't know of any here in Tennessee but they do inhabit lower Georgia and Florida and the Gulf Coast region. They dig a burrow just a little bigger



than the diameter of their own shell and about eight to twelve feet deep. The burrow angles down at approximately thirty-degrees. At the bottom of this hole they round out a good size area big enough to be able to turn around in and even share space with their young. The dirt is pushed to the top and spread around the opening to help keep rains from flooding their den. These tortoises like it dark and humid and it keeps them from needing water as often as other animals. Most of their water comes from the leaves they eat.

About nine or ten o'clock every morning they come out of their hole to eat, except in the winter when they are almost totally inactive. The diet is very simple and consists mostly of new grass sprouts, small flowers and tender leafy greens. They feed for only about an hour or two before it gets too hot and then return to their cool den underground. There they sleep away the day until late afternoon when sometimes they will come out for a short period to snack before bedtime.

At about the same time they are coming out to eat in the morning their buddies, the snakes, are coming in from the night's hunt. The snakes, especially the rattlesnakes, need a place to hide and keep cool for a day or two. This gopher burrow is the perfect spot. They share this den all day long until the snake leaves to hunt and feed at night. Rattlesnakes live very peaceably with the tortoise and rarely if ever strike. It wouldn't do much good since his fangs couldn't penetrate the tortoise shell very easily.

Some studies done by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources have found that over sixty species of other wildlife often depend on these gopher tortoise holes for their existence. These dens are home for insects, small mammals, some amphibians and other reptiles. If it weren't for these tortoise burrows the Gopher Frog probably would have no home at all. The ole tortoise never planned on all these dependents but as Mother Nature usually does, she has a plan.

Water Wonders

"Horseshoe Crabs"

A Story by Mrs. Janice Parker

Henna the Horseshoe Crab lives in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Some of her family live along the Northern Atlantic coast. Annually, some of them can migrate as far north as Delaware Bay.

Her outer shell has three parts. The smooth front part contains her eyes, walking legs, pinchers, mouth, brain and heart. Her gills are in the middle part or abdomen. The last section contains a spiny-looking tail which she uses to flip herself back over if she gets stuck upside down. Henna's mouth, which is located in the middle under her body, is jawless but she has a pair of pinchers which she uses to get her food. She likes to eat mollusks, squid and shrimp.

Henna has five pairs of book gills located just behind her legs. She uses the gills to breathe under the water and they can also allow her to breathe on land for a little while as long, as her lungs stay moist. She can grow up to 20 inches long and live as long as 20 to 25 years.

Henna and her mate migrate to the shore in the late spring. He arrives first. When Henna arrives she digs a nest in the sand and lays up to 15,000 eggs. Her mate then fertilizes the eggs. There are several phases in the development of the baby horseshoe crab, from embryo to larva to baby crab it takes about 11 years for the horseshoe crab to become full grown.

Horseshoe crabs are very valuable for medical research. They have an amazing immune system. When bacteria or foreign objects enter a wound in their body, a clot forms of a clear gel-like material and traps the bacteria. Horseshoe crabs are proving to be very helpful in finding ways to find remedies for disease that have built up resistance to antibiotics.



Check Out Uncle Burney's Critter Corner on the Church Web Page at:
<http://mcdonaldroad.org/kids/corner>

Connecting

Belize: The Story in Photos

See more mission trip photos on our blog and gallery at mcdonaldroad.org!



Before: The inside of the thatch-roofed hut where Eva, Julio, Juan and Antonio lived before.



Our house where we stayed at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in San Ignacio, Belize



The Seventh-day Adventist church where we celebrated our first Sabbath in San Ignacio, Belize.



After: The new one-room house the mission team built in San Antonio, Belize for the Romas children.



We worked hard and we played hard...visiting a Mayan Cave and snorkeling at Caye Caulker...the world's second largest barrier reef.



Everybody pull! The walls of the house came up in no time with everyone working together.



Measuring out the siding for the walls.

Thank You Church Family!!!
For Your Prayers and For Your Financial Help in Making The Belize Mission Trip Possible.
You Helped make a dream come true for the Belizians we were able to help and the McDonald Road Youth who were able to be a part of this special mission opportunity.

What's Happening

CA Day for Future High Schoolers: ACADEMY DAY at Collegedale Academy is April 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (lunch provided). All 8th graders are welcome. Please call 396-2124 for pre-registration if you plan to come and do not attend a local SDA elementary school

Women's Ministries: Tuesday evenings, April 3 - May 1, we will be starting Bible study and other elective classes. Childcare will be available by reservation so please be sure to call. More information is available through the church office. Call 396-3462.

Recruiting Reporters: Do you like taking pictures or writing about events? If so, you are a prime candidate for helping cover news at our church. To learn more, e-mail Church Communications Director Becky Brooks at bebecky@gmail.com. No experience necessary. Digital camera required.

Help us promote our new website address at: <http://mcdonaldroad.org> as well as our new e-mail address at mcdonaldroad.org. Be sure to bookmark it for yourself— and if you have a personal website, include our new web address in your links!



Regular Programs -

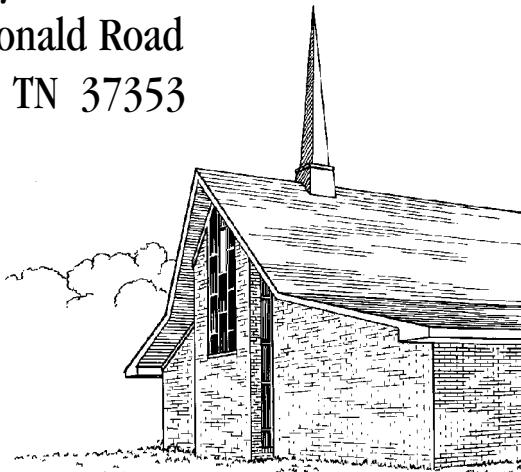
Weekly Worship Services
First Service
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.

Second Service
Saturdays at 11:25 a.m.

Sabbath School
Saturdays at
10:00-11:20 a.m.

Prayer Meeting
Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

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