

Pastor's Corner

February 2015 – Rev. Eric Lane

On February 15th, a team, including Kim and Wayne Ellis and I, will travel to Belmopan, Belize for a ten-day mission trip. I was thinking and reflecting upon our trip. Advertisements lead us to believe that Belize is a tropical paradise, everywhere you turn there is beauty, and all is well. Judging from the cruise line and tourist commercials, why would we ever send teams to build schools and strengthen the church in Belize?

The truth is that you have to go to Belize to realize that what you see on the commercials is not what is really happening within the country. There is great beauty in Belize, but there is also great poverty and a lack of education that keeps the people from overcoming their poverty. What the world sees is what the cruise lines and the tourist industry want you to see. We see only what is on the outside; we can't see what is happening on the inside.

I got to thinking about our own personal lives, and I realized that the same is true for each of us. We tend to put on a front, a disguise, to try to hide our pain, our struggles, and our sin from the world. You might say that we are living in our poverty; hiding our true needs from the world. But God knows our needs, and He responded by sending Jesus Christ His only Son, so that we could overcome. You could say that God sent Jesus on a mission—a mission to free us from our sin, and to give us hope for a better future. To all who receive Him, He gives us the Holy Spirit, Who continues to work within our lives to perfect us as Christ is perfected.

As a mission team, we cannot offer forgiveness of sins to anyone, or transform their lives as Christ transforms lives. Yet, by the grace of God, we can give hope—hope in the name of Jesus Christ—hope that God has heard their cry and is responding to their needs. It is in this hope that we go to serve, and we pray that God will use us as His vessels to bring His light, hope and salvation to those we encounter.

Thank you, Ebenezer, for being a part—a vital part—of this mission of ministry; not just to Belize, but to Costa Rica, Bolivia, Alaska, Lenoir, Granite Falls, Dudley Shoals, and to all the world. I pray that you will support our speakers while we are away, and we look forward to sharing with you what God is doing in Belize.

God bless you,

Rev. Eric Lane