

## Tuesday Recaps, July 12, 2016

### **Robert Hogue – Construction Crew**

Today was a wonderful day of hot and cool. I got to wake up bright and early at 6:00 am to go straight to the construction site. I had a wonderful breakfast with lots of protein and was ready for the day.

Now the car ride over was interesting. We managed to cram the four largest men in our group into the backseat of a small SUV and drove for about 20 minutes to brother Pitterson's house. In the front seat was Mr. Haltiwanger, and in the back was Mark Riley, James McCallum, Dan O'Mara and me. We've never been closer.

Once we got to the construction site and got out of the car, we had to move the scaffolding to start tearing down the rest of the back wall. In order to move scaffolding from one end of a wall to the other; we had to take it apart and reassemble it. After that, we ripped off the wall and spent about an hour and a half putting up supports to hold the roof. During that vigorous work in the heat, our energy was drained and the half of the team that had been working went back to the church. We all proceeded to take an hour long nap on the floor of the Sunday school room.

Our group then went to lunch and we had some delicious homemade taquitos. After I personally ate about six of them, the construction teams headed back out to finish the wall. Once we got there, it began to rain and a few of us were soaked, however some stayed dry. I had the chance to later talk to Brother Pitterson (an 88-year-old man whose home we are fixing) for a few minutes. This really brightened my day. After completing the wall, we headed back to the church for dinner. It was a great day, and very productive. The heat calmed after the rain and even though we were all very tired, we all finished the day off with a good devotion from Mr. Chip. Awesome day.

### **Caroline McManus – Craft Crew**

Today is SVPC's fourth day in the beautiful country of Belize!! I cannot even begin to describe the incredible growth we have experienced as a team of Christians, combined with the amount of love the soulful people of Ladyville have blessed us with.

This morning we gathered for breakfast as a group around 7 am, and were greeted with the typical temperature that accompanies the country of Belize (very, very hot!!). But soon after, we got a downpour of rain, which was to us both a blessing and a curse. The cool water felt awesome but we didn't want the weather to interfere at all with our VBS plans. Ironically enough, the rain ended just as we boarded the bus for the church; prayer definitely works.

We joined all the awesome children of Port Loyola to begin VBS. We sang a bunch of awesome songs, that so many of the kids requested because they loved them so much three years ago. It's funny how such simple memories can impact a child's mind. We then separated into our separate VBS groups, so I shall now give the perspective from the crafts area! Today we created paper "tool boxes" and colored tools to put into them which had encouraging phrases written on them. The purpose of the activity was to show everyone how our different gifts all play a part in our role of being a Christian-like human being! I think that the craft really connected with all the kids and made the handwork of cutting everything out for two straight nights definitely worth it.

Later in the afternoon we journeyed to do an outreach program in another area where we were able to interact with a bunch of new children through sports and crafts. The kids were doing everything from participating in a killer basketball game with a bunch of the guys, kicking around a few soccer balls or even making friendship bracelets. But I think the coolest thing I saw today was a craft that Rebecca and Chris brought for us to use: a Polaroid camera!! The kids in Belize absolutely love the chance to take pictures of themselves and so for them to be able to get a picture to actually take home and to design a picture frame to go with it was something I thought was incredibly ingenious.

Every day here in this country I am filled with the joy and love from not only the church members of Belize that we are interacting with, but from seeing the kindness that our group is pouring out. Every single team member here has their individual gifts and talents that they are proving through their handwork every day and would be clear to any stranger. It was really hard to sum up all this time with such limited wording, but I hope I was able to convey the beauty of it all in some way! Please continue praying for us every day so that we are able to finish up the second half of the week strong!

### **Dan O'Mara – Construction Crew**

If you ever needed proof of the power of prayer, our Tuesday in Belize would be bullet-point #1.

Deacon Jones, one of our friends from Port Loyola Baptist Church, helped us check the latest weather forecast on Monday night. We were told that what is called a "tropical wave" (something short of a tropical storm) was headed directly for Belize City, and that we should expect torrential rains starting mid-morning Tuesday and likely continuing into Wednesday.

While such downpours would affect all aspects of our mission work here, it would essentially make our construction project – re-siding as much of Brother Pitterson's house - an all-or-nothing prospect. We couldn't start pulling off some of the old siding if we didn't know for sure that we would be able to replace it with new. That would leave his living quarters exposed to the elements.

So we went to sleep Monday night pretty much expecting that we would not be getting any work done.

But God had other plans. Tuesday broke somewhat overcast, but not menacing. The forecast still called for lots of rain, but it seemed to be heading south of Belize City. So we set out with faith in our hearts and one eye on the sky. As it turned out, we only had to work around one somewhat brief downpour. Otherwise, the weather cooperated splendidly.

During a break for lunch, another PLBC friend, Deacon Mortis, showed us the latest radar. To our amateur meteorologist eyes, it appeared that the storm was pounding Belize to the north, south and even to the west, as well as out to sea, to the east - all around Belize City. But there was a pocket of calm directly over the city.

Those of us who had been praying for respite from the storm - and who knew that so many of our SVPC friends back home have been praying for the best for our mission work since before we left, were confident that we knew how that could be.

On his Tuesday evening devotion for our mission team, Chip Collins went to 1 Chronicles 5:20: "He answered their prayers because they trusted in Him."

Amen, and amen!

Before I end this, a quick update on the progress of our work on Brother Pitterson's home: On Tuesday, we finished replacing the siding on the back of his house. This was something we thought might take all week, but thanks to advance work by several team members, our Praying Pelican mission partners and PLBC members alike, we have been well ahead of schedule. We are planning, with your continued prayers, to finish re-siding the main side of his house (the side where we replaced the full length of stairs and landing during our 2013 visit) on Wednesday and Thursday.

Let me end by introducing you to the finely tuned machine that is our construction team:

**Ann** "*Precision-Cut*" **Canary**

**Pat** "*Coach*" **Canary**

**Adam** "*Full-Extension*" **Haltiwanger**

**Grady** "*One-Man-Wrecking-Crew*" **Haltiwanger**

**Robert** "*Ladder?-Who-Needs-A-Ladder?*" **Hogue**

**James** "*Who-Needs-A-Hammer-When-You-Can-Swing-A-4X4?*" **McCallum**

**Dan** "*Sgt. Schultz*" **O'Mara**

**Zane** "*Stonewall*" **O'Mara**

**Justin** "*Hammer-Time*" **Owen**

**Ann** "*Who-Gave-Me-The-Right-Handed-Hammer?*" **Perry**

**Mark** *“Let-It-Go-But-Not-When-I’m-Standing-Below-You”* **Riley**

**Marjie** *“Safety-Queen-And-She-Has-The-Whistle-To-Prove-It”* **Roper**

**Jacki** *“Trapeze-Artist”* **Stone**

Our team would not have made the progress it has without the cheerful and Christ-inspired skills of local carpenters Jermaine and Carlos, and Pastor Mark, from whom we have learned so much about construction and life!

We thank you for your continued prayers.

**Dan O’Mara**