

Day 2 Reflection

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This mission trip – my third to Belize with SVPC – has already been an experience different than any other I have had.

At Sunday morning's worship service at Port Loyola Baptist Church, I was given the distinct honor of performing the song, "We Are So Happy To Be In Sunday School," with Deacon Joseph Jones, an experience that I'm sure you will see on video soon.

During the sermon, we were again reminded of our guiding verse, Isaiah 6:8, as Pastor Ian Gillett described how Isaiah listened for God's voice – something I'm sure we all struggle with. The prayer section of the service was especially moving. Two Port Loyola families who have recently experienced great loss were invited to the front of the sanctuary. Two PLBC deacons physically embraced the families and prayed for them. That was powerful.

It was a true family environment that reminded me of SVPC in many ways.

After church we had lunch, chicken and rice, and then changed out of our church clothes for the half-hour bus ride to Hattieville Baptist Church – where our Praying Pelican leader Mark Somerville is pastor – to play sports and do crafts with kids in that rural community.

This being my third time in Belize, I have started to observe and listen more both to members of our team and those from the community where we are. The joy that the people of our team are receiving for the first time from the people of Belize is fun to watch.

Our Belizean friends aren't people who are without everyday problems. It would be short-sighted to say that, because they live in a different country, they don't share problems we live with in our daily lives – something I have learned over these trips.

The ability for me to fellowship with other Bible believers is the main goal of this trip for me. To be in conversation with people with different experiences, to learn names and faces and to laugh with others is something we are doing here. It is also something that anyone reading this can do right now.

If you would like to experience something similar to what we are doing here this week, find a someone you don't know, strike up a conversation, and learn their name and face. Laugh with them.

Thank you for reading and supporting this trip, and God bless!