

# svpc2belize

Wrap-Up Reflection

## Natalie Hogue



Our week in Belize has been amazing. I am feeling so blessed and grateful to have had the opportunity to go on this trip not only once, but twice.

During my time in Belize, I was helping run Vacation Bible School at Port Loyola Baptist Church. We started off the morning with songs, energizers and skits – all of which I know the Belizean kids and my fellow missionaries loved.

Once we got everyone pumped up, we broke ourselves and the Belizean kids into smaller groups to play games, make crafts, and my main area, storytime. We talked about how God is always good in any situation. It was really

amazing to see the kids in Belize open up to us and share their stories while we shared ours.

It made me really happy to see all the kids' smiling and enthusiastic faces coming in every day, eager to learn about God. Each day at VBS was very successful, and I am so glad all of our hard work and preparation paid off and brought some joy into the community at Port Layola Baptist Church.

In the afternoons, we went to a school in another part of Belize City and played games and did some crafts with some of the kids there. It was so amazing seeing how the little things we brought to the kids brightened their day. It was so cool to see the same kids there every day, welcoming us and just being happy we were there.

Our guiding scripture for the week has been Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I! Send me!' " I've always been aware of this verse and that it was something special to this trip, but it really took experiencing this week to realize what it actually means to me.

When Isaiah tells God, "Send me!" it doesn't just mean traveling to a different country and doing God's work. It's about sending my energy, time and love to a place I truly wanted to be, not a place I feel I have to be. I realized why I decided to answer God's call by saying, "Send me!"

The love I feel at Port Loyola Baptist Church is incredibly strong. Everyone who attends Port Loyola shows the smiles on their faces and shares the love in their hearts to everyone they meet. It is such a special place, and anyone who sets foot in the church is blessed.

While we came to serve for them, I felt they were serving us also by showing us the same amount of love back. My heart is forever changed by this church, and having experienced being there will be a forever reminder of how blessed I am.

I want to thank everyone back home who made this trip possible. Thank you for being supportive and generous toward this mission trip. Thank you for helping me hear God's call!

God bless!