



*Hello friends and partners in mission!*

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we're already in 2020 looking forward to an exciting year of Mission and Ministry in our dearly beloved country of Belize. This year we plan to continue and expand on our work in Seine Bight, welcoming a lot of long-standing partner churches and individuals from years past. We also look forward to welcoming new churches and individuals to our expanding community of short-term missionaries and branching out in our service to brand new mission sites. There's much work to be done, and God is providing the laborers. Expect construction projects, VBS, medical home visits, dental clinics, eyeglass clinics, tutoring, and more in support of Christ Lutheran Church of Seine Bight! We have a rich history of serving in these ways and believe that God is calling us to continue. We also have some exciting new Ministries to support. Keep your eyes open in our Spring newsletter for information on our hopes to use short-term teams to support the opening of the first Lutheran school in Belize, the operations of a Christian Radio station, and the church Ministry of a local pastor who is studying hard to become the first Belizean Lutheran pastor in the country.

**If you are interested in joining us on a 2020 team, now is the time to start planning! If you or a representative from your congregation is not already in communication with me, please send me an e-mail so we can see if we can find the perfect spot for you and your service in Belize.**

We hope that you are as proud as we are to be a part of the Belize Mission Society! Short-term team organizations like ours play an important role in ensuring a quality, meaningful, safe, and impactful mission trip both for the short-term missionaries and for the host country. We get short-term missionaries connected to individuals, sites, and projects that we know well and have been working with for years. The host villagers know us and trust us as an organization, and by extension they know and trust the people we bring down, hastening the development of meaningful, cross-cultural relationships. We meet with our Lutheran missionaries on the ground in Belize on a regular basis, listen to them, learn about their needs, and work to support them with our team projects, understanding that the work they do on the ground on a week-to-week basis is going to have the greatest effect in our mutual Ministry. We make sure the projects of our short-term teams build off of the work of previous mission teams and are set to be built upon by future mission teams. We develop personal relationships with hotels, restaurants, cooks, service staff, transportation agents, etc., often times receiving discounts for our ongoing business that help to keep the cost of your trips as low as possible. All of the above and so much more is made possible by working with an established and trusted organization like the Belize Mission Society. We also recognize that for a group like ours to operate, we depend on the partnership and support of churches and individuals like yours. We thank God for each and every one of you, and pray that our relationship continues and grows so that our mutual work in Belize can continue and grow as well.

*-Rev. Duane Meissner*

