

Shining Light Baptist Church

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

Belize



"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:79

The
Mike Leonard
Family



FIELD ADDRESS:

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SENDING CHURCH:

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SERVING WITH:

FBMI
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Dear Praying Friends,

June 2010

Psalm 105:1 says, "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

We are thankful to the Lord for His blessing. In the past three months, various individuals have contributed to the work here, which has allowed us to purchase a 15-passenger van and a 76-passenger bus. These contributions have also enabled us to progress in our building project. We are not able to use our building as of yet, but we were able to erect a small, thatch-roofed shelter. We are meeting on the church property, which has made transporting people much easier since our property is on the main highway.

The Sunday morning attendance has gone from 60 to over 150; evening services vary from 65-80. Constant rain and flooding affects the services, but most are faithful as long as we can get to them with transportation.

From time to time, there are Spanish-speaking people which hear about the teaching of truth that takes place at *Shining Light Baptist Church*. Quite often they will come to hear but to no avail; they are not bilingual, and neither am I. God has brought to my attention the necessity of outreach in this area. I began to pray that God would burden one of our bilingual men for these people. About six weeks ago, Roberto told me that he needed to learn how to interpret our services so that the Spanish people would not be left out. We have found a small core of believers in a nearby Spanish village that are now attending our services regularly. We thank the Lord for this new opportunity.

PRAYER REQUESTS

~ As financial setbacks ripple across the United States, it certainly has an effect on worldwide missions. We are trying to finish our building as well as build a house for ourselves. Our rent has doubled this month, and our house is still on the market in the States. All the while we are also making payments on the five acres of property. The people here are doing what they can, but they make very little in regards to the capacity of the work that needs to be accomplished. A good paying job for a Belizean would pay US\$25/day. We are not in despair; God is still in control, and we continue to live by faith. We are simply keeping you informed as many of you have asked us to do. We appreciate your prayers concerning financial matters, for we know that our God will hear, answer, and provide.

~ Continue to pray that God will help us to reach more men.

~ Pray for us as we are now trying to reach the Spanish villages as well as the English.

~ We are also in the process of starting our Bible institute. Pray for us as we add this to our work load. We have 17 people signed up for the first class.

~ We have problems with thievery and all sorts of trespassers since we are not living on the property. Pray that we will be able to build a house soon. We also need to sell our house in the States, which would give us a little more breathing room financially.

~ With the rainy season come mosquitoes, which also mean dengue fever. The risk and outbreak level is pretty high right now; please pray for our health and safety in these regards—all the more reason why we need to be in our building.

~ We would like to have a 4-wheel drive vehicle with a heavy-duty chassis. The roads here are destroying our Dodge Sprinter, and it is almost useless in the rainy season, not to mention the expense for constant repairs.

~ Please continue to pray for the people here. With the overwhelming lifestyle of carnal vices and the enormous influence of religious works, most people here are blinded to what true salvation really is. Pray that God will continue to give us open doors of opportunity. In most cases there is much ground preparation needed before the seed of the Gospel can take root. We praise the Lord for those who have received Christ since our arrival, as well as those who were previously saved and are now solid in their eternal security.

Seventeen months on the field here in Belize, and we are very glad to be a part of God's work. Besides our regular Sunday and Wednesday services, we have Bible class on Mondays, in-home Bible study on Tuesdays, soul winning and visitation on Thursdays and Saturdays. We are also laying the groundwork for a secondary school for our church families. Our building project is moving along rather slowly, but it is moving. This project will facilitate about 300 people. In our next phase, we would like to build a 300-seat auditorium and make the current building an education center, which would allow us to double in size. We are very grateful that God has sent the Arthur family to help us in the work. There are a couple of other families that may be with us in the near future. We have many fellow helpers that are not physically on the ground with us here—those in the home office, supporting churches, financial donors, prayer partners, etc. Thank you for being a part of our team, and may God continue to bless you in all of your endeavours for Him.

Making much of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Leonard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Making much of Jesus,".

Missionary Mike Leonard