



"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

Dear Praying Friends,

March 2011

The
Mike Leonard
Family



FIELD ADDRESS:

Georgeville Village

Cayo District

BELIZE,

Central America

011-501-628-8111

mikeleonard@fbmi.org

SKYPE: m.mleonard

SENDING CHURCH:

First Baptist Church

Hammond, IN

SERVING WITH:

FBMI

507 State Street

Hammond, IN

46320

Missionary #104

219-228-2850



"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

The culture in which we live is permeated with incredible lewdness. For the men, it is strictly gratification of the carnal lust. For many of the women, it is a way of survival, and for the children . . . well, it is an absolute shame and abomination in the eyes of God how these "little ones" have their innocence violated.

We are seeing steady growth as more families frequent our services; however, it was only a matter of time before this reprobate lifestyle directly affected the church. We have already had a couple cases of alleged fornication that we were able to deal with privately, and it did not become an issue in the church; however, recently there was an issue that surfaced regarding some faithful members and workers. The time had come for me to give in-depth instruction in the area of fornication and set some ground rules for those who would hold responsibilities in the church. One Sunday evening at the end of an hour-and-a-half message on fornication, my most faithful man and employee came to the altar to pray. Knowing that he was not guilty in any present accounts of fornication, I assumed that he was praying for those involved. The next day he told me that the Lord had really touched his heart during the sermon, and he had committed himself—to start tithing. It just goes to show you that the Holy Spirit can take absolute truth and use it any way He sees fit.

We praise the Lord for His mighty hand at work here. We have just crossed our two-year anniversary mark here in Belize, and we are thrilled to see what God is doing in this short amount of time. Some come and go, but those who are searching for truth are faithfully growing in the Lord. We average about 100 in each service, and about 50% of the people are ages 13 and up. We have a wonderful children's program, and many of them are coming to Christ for salvation. The program is designed to help the children grow in the Lord, and they are excited to take part each week. We pray that this foundation in the youth will prevent them from living a lifestyle that is all too common in the village. It is Christ alone Who can free them from the bondage of their forefathers.

We are starting to see a few relocated Americans come to be a part of our church. Our small parking area has been full at times, and that has been exciting. Our Spanish Ministry appears to be growing as well. In each service we have been incorporating some songs in Spanish. The

Spanish folk seem to enjoy the attempt that I make in butchering their language; at least they are very gracious about the whole matter.

We recently had a church picnic that really seemed to knit the hearts of the people together. I prepared my famous Lexington-style, North Carolina barbecue, and the ladies of the church provided all the rest of the food. We played volleyball and softball. We also had games, such as the egg toss, the 3-legged race, and the sack race. There was so much laughter, and many didn't want to go home. The day was certainly too short, as we ran out of time before I had the chance to teach the men how to pitch horseshoes. It was certainly a fun-filled day.

One Saturday morning I was counseling a Spanish gentleman through an interpreter. Juan, the man interpreting for me, has attended our church off and on for about 18 months. He has become more faithful over the past two months and claimed to be a Christian when I inquired about his salvation. While counseling this Spanish gentleman, I was explaining that salvation is more than just believing in God and how one must accept Jesus Christ for eternal life and forgiveness of sin. Juan looked at me and said, "Now you have me thinking." As we continued, Juan looked at me again and said, "I think I need this too. I've never really accepted Christ." Both men trusted Christ that morning.

Our construction has been slow but steady. A couple from North Dakota, visiting Belize for several months and faithful to our church, just recently donated a sum of money for our construction projects; many thanks to this sweet couple for their investment in the ministry here. This will allow us to continue construction on the roof of our building. We have one corner remaining to complete. With this gift we have also been able to begin construction on our permanent baptistery.

We still have many construction projects in view. We need to put in water and electricity. Once water is in, we would like to build a bathroom to replace the outhouse. We also need additional thatch structures to use for Sunday school classes and Junior Church. We are currently shuttling all the children a mile away in order to have classrooms and a nursery. The completion of these structures would allow everyone to stay on the same property. Please pray with us concerning these matters as we watch the Lord continue to work.

The whole world seems to be swallowed up in revolution and solidarity these days. I must say that I welcome all the changes that appear to be taking place as I focus upon Revelation and the Second Coming. As the days seem to be growing gloriously dim, we are very privileged to be a candle of light amidst the chaotic darkness that must take place. Of course, we do not know the day nor the hour that our Lord will return for his bride, but we are certainly responsible for our preparedness. I trust that whatever your circumstances may be, you are able to gain strength and peace from the Lord as we remember these words from Scripture:

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:11-14)

Making much of Jesus,



"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
they shall prosper that love thee.
Because of the house of the Lord
our God I will seek thy good."
Psalm 122:6,9

Missionary Mike Leonard