



## Remote Area Ministries

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### TO BELIZE WITH BISHOP NIKKI



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Dear Friends,

Next month we are going to Belize with Bishop Nikki Ogamba, the director of OCN, for the purpose of planting Kingdom Training Centers (KTCs) in several cities of that Central American nation. Bishop Nikki has been going to Belize for the last 15 years, and consequently has many contacts who will be ready to assist us. Preliminary plans have been made for traveling by road to the cities of Belmopan (the capital), San Ignacio, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, and Orange Walk. Nikki is taking a small team with her from her church in Los Angeles, All Nations Living Fountains Church.

After 4 days, the Bishop and her team will return to Los Angeles, and Grace and I will continue to visit other towns. Arrangements have already been made to host 12-15 pastors in each city regarding their food, and they will receive the presentation of the KTCs and how to operate them. We are excited for this opportunity to work with Bishop Nikki who is very widely known throughout the country. We are believing for many KTCs to be planted during our trip. Grace and I went to Belize with our family in 2011 for a vacation, and had a wonderful time there. Most of the people speak English, since the country was colonized by Great Britain a couple of centuries ago, and was called "British Honduras." The name was changed to Belize in 1973, and the country gained its independence in 1981. Today it has a population of almost 375,000.

A map of Belize is shown on page 2. The red dots show the cities where we have plans to teach. We will also do our presentation of the KTCs there. The boundaries of Belize with Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras are clearly shown.



### SHORT BELIZE HISTORY

Belize's Mayan civilization is divided into 3 parts: The Pre-Classic era from 1000 BC to AD 300, the Classic era from AD 300 to 900 when the civilization reached its height of development, and the Post-Classic era AD 1000 to 1500, when the civilization fell apart and disappeared. No one knows for certain what caused the disappearance of the Maya. Perhaps it was war, loss of faith, famine, or a series of natural disasters.

Christopher Columbus sailed along the coast of Central America in 1502, and named the Bay of Honduras which borders the southern part of the barrier reef of Belize. As a consequence, Spain claimed the land to the west of the bay for itself. But the first settlers in Belize were English Puritans, setting up trading posts along the coast of Belize. It wasn't long before logging became the dominant occupation. This band of rugged individuals took to calling themselves "Baymen" after the Bay of Honduras. Spain continually attempted to expel these British settlers from then Spanish territory, but finally signed treaties in 1763 and 1786 allowing the British to continue to harvest timber in exchange for protection against pirates preying on the Spanish galleons.

In 1798 the British loggers defeated the Spanish navy, abolished the Spanish restrictions, and became the dominant power in the area. During the 1840's, Great Britain declared Belize to be the colony of British Honduras. Development of Belize became more organized and multiethnic through a series of cultural changes. The European settlers began to marry freed slaves forming the Creole majority that still is dominant in the population. Mexican citizens began cultivating small farms in Northern Belize. By the early 1900's, Belize had grown to nearly 40,000 inhabitants. By 1954 voting rights were extended to all adults, and by 1961, England agreed to begin the process of setting Belize free.

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## OPPORTUNITY

We usually put the Gill manuals on flash drives which we leave with the churches. Since some of the more remote churches may not have computers, we are donating the money to buy 3 printers in Belize, so they can duplicate the manual pages. We offer the opportunity to contribute to these printers. Bishop Nikki is donating one printer and we are donating two at a cost of \$200 each. We covet your prayers during our trip to Belize.

Love,

*Jack & Grace*