



**Dear Family and friends,**

**Happy 2009 and greetings from Belize!! We are doing well and starting to feel at home. It's hard to believe we have been here for 7 months now. A lot has happened in the past 2 months (photos at the end) so here is a quick summary of God's work at the Baptist Training Center:**

- One of the busiest months we have had yet since we moved. (Whew!) But we are excited there are over 12 churches just from NC coming to serve in Belize at some point this year.
- Assisted with 3 busy missions teams from Alabama and NC
- Hosted and assisted professors and staff of the Baptist Bible school of Belize for local pastors in training
- Participated in the CBF Latin America Team Meeting here with fellow missionaries from Mexico, Peru, and Haiti
- Continued in growth of management skills for the staff of this culturally different work environment

**On a personal note:**

- We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves when we traveled to the US to see our dearly missed family and friends over a whirlwind 3-week Christmas trip. It's amazing how our perspective of the States has slightly changed already and what we as humans think we "need."
- Ciera ( 5 yrs) is taking a ballet class (whoever knew this would be available here?!) with some fellow classmates in a small refurbished house but is enjoying letting go of all her energy (hallelujah we say). She loves to read, sing the Belizean national anthem at the top of her lungs, and play with her friends.
- On a joking sense, Josiah (17 mos) is on "suicide watch" constantly because he is truly a danger to himself and always in need of supervision...climbing on tables, Ciera's loft, playing with sharp objects, etc. He is starting to use words like ball, bye-bye and Elmo. His idea of trying to jump is just raising his arms in the air. And he has the beauty pageant wave down pat since he waves hello and good-bye to many new faces here.
- Eric is staying busy with mission team needs, grounds maintenance, and office work. But he still gets to steal a moment to himself in the evenings to watch a good action movie.
- Julie is enjoying serving the community through the leadership of a weekly prayer group. It has dedicated participants with thriving interest. It is also growing knowledge she is a nurse and therefore is starting to be asked to take people's blood pressure and advise on minor ailments. (But she still prays someone won't show up at our doorstep to deliver a baby!)

**On a side note, we were thrilled to be a part of Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child" January 31<sup>st</sup>. We got to assist with a local church in the evangelistic outreach of the gospel and the distribution of boxes. Over 12-13,000 boxes were delivered to Belize this year. What a joy it was to be a part of this end**

of the process after spending many years ourselves making the boxes. Many children accepted Christ (including Ciera!!) and loved “the stuffed animals, bracelets, candy, Barbie doll, markers, and hair pony tails.” One boy stated his favorite gift was the journal inside and another girl said, “And they even sent me their email address!”

We want to thank all of you for many prayers, support, emails, cards, boxes and phone calls. *For they are precious in our sight.* Also, we greatly appreciate your support to Seek Serve Save. Not only have we had wonderful financial support, we have received over \$100 just from [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) and Food Lion since we left. Bless you and keep up the good work. Your funds help on a daily basis for an array of medical, nutritional, academic, clothing and housing needs. The dedicated and diligent funds you contribute are held in great honor and used to God’s glory.

**We love you all and grateful to God for our abundant blessings.**

*Eric, Julie, Ciera, & Josiah Maas*

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**See below for some recent photos:**

- Ciera and Josiah relaxing on a trail in the Pine Ridge Forest
- Young girl enjoying her box from Operation Christmas Child
- Photo of our CBF Latin America Team
- Josiah playing with some glasses
- Playing in the water at Caye Caulker
- Ciera relaxing on the couch
- Ciera and Josiah playing with some Mennonite Children
- Eric building a smaller slide at the center for younger children
- Julie sharing the gospel at Operation Christmas Child



