



Let's Go To Belize

News from the Wildauer Family serving the Lord in Belize

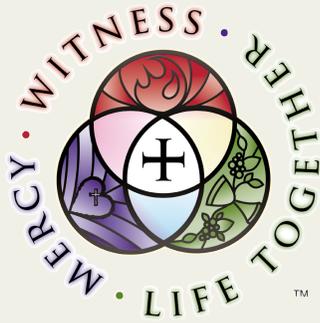
Paradise This Side of Paradise

I've heard it said that serving in Belize must be nice. It truly is a beautiful country, and not only for the beauty of God's creation, but also the beauty of the people He has created. While we served in Togo in West Africa, my friend and fellow pastor, Rev. Duane Meissner, served here. I recall seeing his updates and thinking what a nice place it was to serve, but then quickly turned back to enjoying our five years of sub-saharan life. We returned to the United States in early 2020 and soon received the invitation to continue international service by relocating to Belize. Pictures and concepts of the mission are one thing, but actually serving in the field is altogether another thing.

Our family considered the move as an opportunity but also meticulously explored some of the difficulties it might present. What is the country like behind the tourism? How would we be received by Belizeans as a family coming from Africa? How would another country, culture, and linguistic change affect our family? So many questions, and yet the Lord provides. He always does and will continue to do so. His Word and promise are always by our side, a constant stronghold in times of doubt or discouragement, and a beacon of light to all who are receiving the preaching of Christ crucified and risen for their salvation.

The current preaching locations in Belize are as diverse as the country itself. At the moment, we have four locations where we are preaching and planting congregations. We are studying the Lutheran Confessions with a Belizean pastor who desires colloquy into the Lutheran Church. We are working to restart a much-needed preschool. The task is great, yet the Lord provides. In the coming months, we will endeavor to inform you of each location and the work that the Lord is accomplishing there. So join us in this journey and rejoice with us as the Lord calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies His Church in Belize.





Pray For:

- ✠ The Belizean catechumen who are receiving teaching of the Christian faith.
- ✠ An efficacious plan to open our preschool in Valley of Peace
- ✠ The colloquy studies of a pastor for our northern congregations
- ✠ Pastoral students being formed at our international seminaries
- ✠ Your pastor and congregation

Give Thanks For:

- ✠ The baptism of Gerald, member in Seine Bight
- ✠ The birth and baptism of twins to our member, Mariluz
- ✠ The ongoing settlement of our family in Belize
- ✠ The recent ordination in Ivory Coast of three students that Micah had taught
- ✠ Continued health for our family
- ✠ The freedom of the Gospel as it is proclaimed in many languages

Hitting the Ground Running

Those were the words of our Area Facilitator and fellow missionary in Belize, Rev. Herb Burch, back in March 2021. When we landed in Belize in February, we set out quickly to get to know the members of the congregations and the three current sites for church plants. By April, our fellow Alliance Missionary, Rev. Benjamín Flores, was on his way to Norway to see his first-born son and wife who had left months before to give birth there. By the end of June and again in July, we were on our own as Rev. Burch had obligations in other countries. In mid-August, the missionaries and families reassembled and are now evangelizing and teaching at our various sites.



What have we learned so far? Quite a bit!

- Belize is a developing country. Following the ever-changing regulations for both the population and the churches has been a daily task. I have read more “Statutory Instruments” than I care to admit.
- Each town is as diverse as the next. You may know Belize as home to the Mayan civilization. Many still live throughout the country alongside Mestizos, Garifuna, Salvadorian refugees, Mennonites (classified as a people group here), Guatemalans, Hondurans, and many more.
- The term “Christianity” is not foreign here, but congregations that teach faithfully and visit members are.
- Catechesis will be at the heart of all that we do in the mission.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
[OR] 40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (or “LCMS”). Please include “**Wildauer—Belize**” in the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely through the LCMS website using my online giving page at www.lcms.org/wildauer or through Mission Central at <https://missioncentral.us/wildauer>. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, or if you prefer to receive by posted mail, or if you think someone else might enjoy receiving this newsletter, send an email message to micah.wildauer@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

A Word about Our Son, David

Many who have been following our family since our departure to Africa know that our son David contracted malaria in 2016 at the age of 2. It all began with common signs of sickness: a fever, a positive malaria test, some medicine, and a few days rest. He appeared to be alright after that. During our time there, he was the only one to test positive for malaria which is still a prevalent killer in West Africa.

Unfortunately, the mystery had only begun. It is common to take a malaria prophylaxis in that region, but since they come with side effects from long-term use, we refrained during the dry season. During those few months, we started to notice that David would have a mysterious three-day illness about once a month but it didn't present like common malaria. Tests for other illnesses were negative. Specialists in Togo didn't think it was a rare form of recurring malaria, so they didn't test for it. It wasn't until our home service in 2019 that we were able to do in-depth testing with infectious disease specialists, even finding David sick in Dallas and treated by a specialist in abnormally presenting malarias. She believed it to be a malaria called *P.ovale*, a recurring one that stays dormant in the liver until manifestation in the blood. Thus we treated him with an anti-malaria for the blood and another for the liver. For the rest of the summer, he was free of all signs of sickness. The doctor noted that it is possible that a small amount of the parasite would remain and not manifest for some time after. I'd like to thank many of you who were able to support us at the time with your prayers and your personal care which came in various forms.

Around December of 2019, we were back in Togo and on our way to the Baptist hospital for other reasons. That morning, David started showing common symptoms, yet felt better by the afternoon. This occurred once more in between our time in Togo and Belize. Since our arrival in Belize, he has shown symptoms on three occasions, albeit brief and not for three days. The Belizean medical system is not geared for such a case. With



the assistance of our regional team, we are currently set up for an emergency trip to a hospital in Texas if the need arises. Your prayers are always appreciated. David's a tough guy, has a strong will, and an even stronger faith in his Lord.

Our address while living in Belize

Regular (slow) mail:

The Wildauer Family*
P.O. Box 579
Belmopan, Belize
Central America

Packages:

The Wildauer Family*
4113 Hahn Blvd.
#607-0781
Haltom City, TX 76117
Phone (+1) 214-650-0205

Stateside:

The Wildauer Family*
118 Pinecrest Dr.
Bremen, IN 46506

**Any name of a family member can be put here. Please notify us if you plan to send a package.*



Reverend Micah Wildauer
P.O. Box 579
Belmopan, Belize
Central America

Where in the World?? Belmopan, Belize

We live in the Midwest. That's what we like to tell people when they ask where we live now. Belmopan is located in the midwestern part of the country. Known as "The Garden City," it is the nation's capital with a population of 13,000 not including the surrounding villages. It is a planned, inland capital born from the days when Belize City suffered successive devastating hurricanes in the 1960s. Being a new city, it has a fair representation of Belize's multicultural population. It is a growing but quiet city which has access to almost every part of the country (minus the islands) by a 2-3 hour drive.



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