

Dear Ladies of the LWML, Oregon District,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! It was a joy, a blessing, and an honor to learn of your decision to approve our grant for "Christ in Belize" as a District. I thank you, the future first Lutherans of Belize thank you, and our Lord Jesus thanks you for this good work in His kingdom. Your grant goes a long way in making it possible for me to live and work in Belize, planting the country's very first Lutheran churches. I hope you enjoy these pictures of us and our work. Please keep us all in your prayers, as we thank God for all of you.

Your Missionary to Belize,



Pr. Duane Meissner



One thing your grant helps provide is my specialized training pre-deployment at our regional headquarters in the Dominican Republic. Here I am, preaching my first sermon in Spanish, this past Good Friday! I'm thankful for my four months of language training in the Dominican Republic. Even though the official language of Belize is English, fifty percent of the population speaks Spanish as their first language – a percentage that has been growing every year!



I do a lot of work with the Belize Mission Society – an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that sends groups of U.S. short-term missionaries to Belize for special projects, like this VBS that serves nearly 400 children each year! Every year they also do medical mission trips, a dental clinic, a sports camp, and school scholarship programs.



Here is a picture of St. Alphonsus, the school that nearly all of the children in Seine Bight attend. We partner with this school regularly, and have been able to develop good relationships with the principal, teachers, and students. Building on these and other relationships, we expect this village of Seine Bight to be the location of the country's very first Lutheran Church. God willing, property will be purchased and an official Lutheran congregation planted sometime in 2017.



The people of Belize are beautiful and vibrant. It is my joy to bring them what they need most – the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I couldn't do it without the support of faithful Christian partners like you. We thank you!!!

Please visit our website, www.ChristInBelize.com, for more pictures, stories, and to sign up to receive our monthly newsletter!