

HOPE

ADDICTION PRISON MINISTRIES

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SEPTEMBER BELIZE MISSION TRIP

IN THE BELIZE CENTRAL PRISON

Progress continues slowly towards integrating the entire prison into a recovery rehabilitation program. I reported on my last trip that until one person was appointed and accountable for the entire recovery rehabilitation programs, growth and expansion at that time was as far as it could progress. This due to the lack of follow-up, management, and accountability of each of the departments. Happily I found on this trip that one individual, Juan Vega who is Director of the Treatment Center (ARC), was given the additional responsibility and accountability for recovery rehab throughout the prison. What a HUGE step of progress. The cracks in initiating this process are being corrected and progress is taking place for the expansion and further growth of the 12 Step Programs throughout the prison. ALLELUIA!!! I therefore spent 10 days visiting, teaching, and participating in 12 Step Programs in these various departments. WE AGAIN ARE MOVING

FORWARD AND ALL (for now) looks good. The problems of needed supplies of 12 Steps books and materials continue and is increasing substantially as programs expand. This is the biggest problem I face in the entire ministry since the prison (and people in the community) have no funds to purchase and therefore rely on this ministry to provide. The average cost for just one set of books for all three programs (AA, NA, and EA) in both English and Spanish is \$60. There are 1600 inmates in the prison and we currently have about 400 actively participating in our recovery programs. Currently there are only enough books to cover one half of those participating. As program penetration increases the book and materials also increase. So the challenge in the prison is now to find a way to supply sufficient books and materials. **Please pray this need is filled.**

IN THE COMMUNITY

I have reported that my efforts in the prison made great strides, but the efforts outside for 9 of the 10 years have not been productive. This began to change 4 years ago slowly with support from the government and the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) who have taken on the responsibility to establish 12 Step Recovery Programs in their respective territories in the country. This has had limited success but is a step forward. Then an attempt to incorporate 12 Step Programs into the parolee meetings held in the country was initiated. Again this has had limited

success. On my trip this past May, St. John's Anglican Cathedral stepped up and offered support and I conducted addiction awareness training seminars for their congregation and any others interested. Attendance was small but three individuals stepped up to begin a 12 Step Program in the Cathedral. Attendance is again small, but a meeting has been established. This trip the Cathedral again offered an addiction seminar to the community and prepared flyers and lined up a radio and TV interview for me. Again attendance was small, but God produced two major opportunities. The first was with an individual who traveled 80 miles one way to attend and who admitted he had a 15 yr old addiction problem and needed help. His wife was going to leave him and his children no longer had a relationship with him. He was a "respected" member of the community and the church and was suffering from severe guilt and shame. He sought my help and we met and prayed and discussed his problems. After two meeting he agreed to take those steps he needed to begin his "recovery journey". He began this the next day and HOPEFULLY AND PRAYFULLY he will be able to begin rebuilding his life and his relationships with his family. **I seek your prayers for Raymond.**

The second opportunity resulting from the seminar occurred when two members of a half way house (**Freedom House**) offered to help me reach the Clergy community in their village. They invited me and 14 members of the Clergy to discuss addiction and how they could begin a recovery movement. Seven Clergy attended and after much discussion, agreed to unify their efforts (a first) by announcing, advertising, and informing their congregations of a joint one day meeting in one location where I would be able to address addiction, causes, addictive behavior, intervention procedures, and steps to recovery. This meeting is now scheduled for Jan 2013. The vision is to hopefully begin 12 Step Meetings throughout this community on Drugs, Alcohol, and Emotions. This is an incredible step forward after 9 years of not being able to gain any support from the churches and the community. I was reminded that God will do things in his way and in his time,

NOT MINE. I seek your prayers this meeting does in fact take place and the people hearing the announcement of the meeting have open hearts and DO attend and STEP FORWARD to initiating 12 Step recovery meetings.

ALLENDALE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE

Weekly 12 Step meetings are conducted. Once a month, I also conduct addiction awareness training for ALL NEW ARRIVALS to the prison and then offer one evening of training for all prison inmates. (Usually about 150-200 attend).

The major breakthrough at Allendale is the establishment of the CHARACTER HOUSING UNIT (CHU) program, a preparation for transition back into society. This is a volunteer program with the initial test group numbering 125 who sign and agree to a code of conduct and participation in education and training programs. It is supervised by inmate coordinators under prison management. Inmates are offered programs such as ,math, reading, job interviewing and resume writing, parenting skills, building relationships, art classes, bee keeping (to sell honey), landscaping, construction, spiritual studies, 12 step programs, and many others. The vision is to use this program as an indication to community businesses to show the individuals commitment to changing their lives and behavior and to entice employers to hire these individuals upon release. Commitments by outside employers have already taken place and the goal is to expand this so these released inmates are able to become productive members of society and hopefully DO NOT AND WILL NOT return to prison. Many volunteers have stepped forward to offer their time and talents. At my church, St. Luke's in Hilton Head, SC 13 individuals have volunteered to join in on this project. This project

hopefully completes the cycle from imprisonment to a return to a productive life. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. If interested, please contact me. **Pray for volunteers.**

NEEDS

1. As you can see from the above activities one of the critical needs of the ministry is the increase in the books and materials for both the current participants and for the increased expansion and growth of the 12 step programs. **Pray for funds to be provided.**
2. **Prayer** for the continued progress in the prison and especially for Juan who is responsible and accountable for the programs.
3. **Prayer and thanks** for the meetings at St. John's in Belize City and for Rev. Eric, Lillith, and Adalai who have committed to lead 12 Step meetings.
4. **Prayer for Freedom House** and the services they provide released inmates and especially Ray and Emmanuel, the leaders.
5. **Prayer** for the Clergy of Belmopan and that their congregations have open hearts for the proposed January meeting and that people rise up to lead the 12 step meetings.
6. **Prayer** for Raymond as he begins his journey in recovery. Prayer for strength and courage.

THANKS

Warm thanks and gratitude for the support of this ministry. All of the above only takes place because of your generous financial and constant prayer support. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

DONATIONS

Donations should be **made payable to, ST. LUKE'S FOUNDATION OF HILTON HEAD** with a memo for, **HOPE ADDICTION PRISON MINISTRY. Send to: Michael Znachko, 29 Seabrook Landing Dr. Hilton Head, SC 29926**

IN HIS SERVICE,

September 20, 2012