

CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION BELIZE PROJECT

As mentioned before, interest within the church began with a trip in February of 1986 which included visits to many of the co-ops and meetings with BARD staff. Wes, Tim and Kip also delivered two microscopes and other lab equipment to the new secondary school in Double Head Cabbage; the microscopes were obtained on educational loan through the efforts of another member of the church. Kip, who is an artist and former teacher also spent time in several of the rural schools including a Peace Corps School for refugees. Out of this trip came the beginnings of what is now the Belize Project of the Church of reconciliation. The group now has about 12 members. To supplement the funding obtained from the church, the Belize Project has participated in two fund raising events, a dinner/auction and a yard sale which were co-sponsored by another group within the church that is supporting a rural health center in Guatemala. A primary goal of the Belize Project is to become involved in co-operative projects between our church community and self-help groups in Belize. This group wants to emphasize people-to-people exchanges of ideas and expertise. Towards that end the group has sponsored visits to North Carolina by Mark Chavarria and Winston Staine. Last year the group provided books and school supplies for a refugee school that had been started by two Peace Corps Volunteers.

The group is currently working with the Double Head Cabbage community to plan a permanent building for the secondary school which is currently housed in the community center and will send workers to Belize in August to help with construction. The group will also be supplying the funds for some of the construction materials.

Long range plans include working with BARD to establish the Farm school. This will of course overlap with any work done by Twin Streams. We also expect new projects and areas of interest to develop out of the continued co-operative effort with our friends in Belize.

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The Belize Project provides the most active support within the church for a co-operative effort with Belize, but the church as a whole has agreed to support this work with funding. This year the mission council pledged \$2,250 towards support of the Belize Project Group. In addition, a portion of the Lenten Hunger Offering (\$640) has been designated for the BARD Farm School.