



September 2019

**COME FOLLOW ME! I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN. MARK 1:17**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BELIZE!**  
September 21, marks 38 years of Belize independence



A big THANK YOU to the PLC Dental team. You all are awesome!

Prairie Lakes Church’s Dental Missions Team embarked on their 8th year of coming alongside God’s on-going work with Fishers of Men-Belize. This veteran team entered into the community and lives of the school children at Martin De Porres Blackman. Using their professional skills in dentistry, the team was reunited with friends and throughout the week they made new friendships.

Linking arms from the states of Alaska, Alabama, Florida, Texas and Iowa, and the countries of El Salvador and Belize; this team was uniquely positioned to leverage a Kingdom-impact while moving the needle in dental health. - Connie



**Left to right front row:** Keith Mahipala - Alaska, Maria Magdalena Cruz - El Salvador, Gissell Hernandez -Belize, Gene Watkins - Belize, Merri Hall Cross- Iowa, Elizabeth Willingham – AL, Connie Erpelding – Iowa, **Row 2 left to right:** Liz Watkins- Belize, Delisa Wilson - Texas, Ashley Stephens- Texas, Marilyn Trunnell - Iowa, Mark Trunnell - Iowa, Dave Vonderhaar -Iowa, and Massey Willingham - Al,

## Team Update

**“My mouth is filled with God’s praise. Let everything living bless him.” Ps. 145:21**

It is such a joy for us to continue to serve those whom we first met. It is amazing how the Lord continues our relationships as they all intertwined from one ministry to another. Why is this? Could it be because it is His ministry? Gene and I first met Lillian; while we were serving in a school sponsorship ministry. Serving with FOM we have continued that relationship with Lillian. It has been a pleasure watching her grow into this beautiful young lady.

**Eight years ago, PLC team met Lilian** a little girl from Martin De Porres Blackman school who arrived at the Prairie Lakes Church/Fishers of Men-Belize dental clinic. She had a washcloth pressed to her mouth hiding her smile. She was missing a front tooth. Lilian’s eight-year journey of extensive restorative dental care began that day. This is Lilian’s smile today—no washcloth! Now eighteen years old and graduated from high school, Lillian joined our team to serve alongside the dental team that was so honored to care for her.



“Thank you for everything you guys had given me the pass 8 years, I really appreciate everything. It was a great experience I had the pass 2 days. May the good Lord continue blessing u on your journey. LOVE U GUYS and God bless!” -Lillian

### Introducing to you Earl.

Look at Earl’s smile! From the time Earl started school, he received yearly dental care from our team. This year is Earl’s last year at the primary school, so it is our last opportunity to cheer for Earl’s outstanding dental care throughout the year. **No cavities!!! Congratulations Earl!**

This thoughtful, gentle young man is looking forward to attending high school next year. He’s unsure of what he’d like to study beyond high school and asked for prayers to understand and continue in God's plan for his life.



**Look at these smiles!** The PLC’s Dental Team has the honor of a dental hygienist from El Salvador joining us this year. **Magdalena’s smile shines** between the smile of two of our new friends from Martin De Porres Blackman School. Rovin (left) and Alvin (right) are 9 and 10-year-old brothers who can be seen in the picture sharing their appreciation for Magdalena’s care for their teeth. Both brothers had a clean bill of dental health—NO cavities. After they saw the hygienist and dentist, the brothers had fun with their friends at recess playing catch and hide and seek.



## Smiles, Fun and making new friends

The smile on the right belongs to nine-year-old Nayellie, a student in Standard 4 at Martin De Porres Blackman school. Nayellie loves math, helping her mom wash clothes, and playing with her new friend Elizabeth. Elizabeth's smile is on the left shining through her soon-to-be-removed braces.



This fifth-grade dynamo celebrated her eleventh birthday in Belize. She loves recess, gymnastics, encouraging the students in the dental chair, and playing with Nayellie. Elizabeth's father (Dr. Massey Willingham) is a dentist on our team this year.



**We were honored to have Fishers of Men Dental Team at our school** and most important an energetic young girl who made new friends at our school. Our children were graced with Elizabeth's presence in the classroom and her gymnastic skills.

She was a joy to our children. Lovely child and thanks to the parents that allowed her to be on this trip. Awesome hope she wins a medal.

A big thank you to these awesome people that have found the time and finance to visit us for 8 years. ---- Thanks a million. Connie you rock! --Sandra Cocom- Principal



We will end the newsletter on something very dear to our hearts. Teaching others to serve, making relationships that will last an eternity. For us It was a joy for to watch as Lillian and Gissell served with the PLC Dental Team, assisting the Dr.'s

Both of the girl has received so much and now are giving back.



Thank you, Prairie Lakes Church, for sending us people who want to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

### 2020-Team Dates

**January 18-25** Men's Ministry Team--  
-Contact: Burt Odom- [bodom@emjcorp.com](mailto:bodom@emjcorp.com)

**February 08-15** Decatur Dental Medical--Contact: Paul Bishop  
[paulbishop.asb@gmail.com](mailto:paulbishop.asb@gmail.com)

**March 14-21** PLC Education Ministries--Contact: Merri Cross-  
[macnjac91@hotmail.com](mailto:macnjac91@hotmail.com)

**May 30-June 6** Woven Together Ladies Ministry Team- Contact: Jerri Serman

[jerriserman@bellsouth.net](mailto:jerriserman@bellsouth.net)

**September 14-21** PLC Dental Team:  
[connie.erpelding@prairielakeschurch.org](mailto:connie.erpelding@prairielakeschurch.org)

Where will you serve?

We have plenty of room for more teams



**Gene & Liz Watkins**

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Fishers of Men would love for you to share your talents with us  
in ministry to grow God's kingdom

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