

GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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Answered Prayer

We have been praying for a swing set/play house for two years. And when we had decided the Lord was saying no, He gave us exactly what we wanted.

A missionary family was returning to the U.S. and couldn't sell this swing set. We asked them if they would be willing to donate it



to Engedi House and they did. What a blessing it is and it really adds to the play ground we have been building. Also it comes at the perfect time. The Smiths, who will be joining the ministry here in August, have 3 small children.

And taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me." Mark 9:36-37

The phone rings and we recognize the number as Social Services. We know they would only be calling us because they have a child or children that need a safe place to stay. We hesitate before calling them back and discuss the pros and cons of what the call means. More work & expense, less sleep. A bigger strain on us as we prepare for our Bible classes that we teach each week. And of course the heartache when we have to give them up. We pray and usually cry and always say "how can we say no". We call them back and say "of course we will take her". And we receive her in Jesus' name and believe in faith that He will provide all that is needed to care for His children.



Meet Julia

She will be staying with us for about three months. She is twenty two months old. We are still in the "getting to know each other" phase. Please pray for her to have a smooth, easy transition to life with us. Pray for us that we will be all that she needs and that we will have the stamina and strength that we need to care for her. When you join us through prayers or financial support you also become partakers of receiving this child of His.

Working with these children is also a ministry we are introducing to the local churches and families. Fostering children doesn't come naturally here, so when people see us caring for Belizean children they inevitably ask us what we are doing. We are able to share the love of Jesus for children in need.

Shona

Shona is Hindi for sweetheart. She is a puppy from our male dog Shaka. We recently bred a female for a friend and received Shona as our payment for the breeding. We know that some of you that read this will have strong feelings about us breeding dogs. But before you get angry or think less of us keep in mind that we live ten miles in the jungles of Central America. This is not the U.S. and help is not a phone call away. We have to provide for our own security, and these Rottweilers are our best defense against



those that would do us harm. We currently have three adult dogs, but one is getting older and is presenting less of a threat to the people outside the fence. Of course there is a little more expense in keeping four dogs but we feel it is important and prudent to be good stewards of our lives and property.

Some of you may also wonder about the idea of the need for such precautions. Isn't this the same Belize that is a major tourist paradise? While it is true that many tourists come to Belize, they usually keep to the resorts and beaches which is NOT where live and work. In fact we never see the beach or visit any resorts. Remember there are valid reasons that Central America has the reputation it does.

Support

We usually don't mention our need for support or the level of financial donations. Mainly because we truly believe the Lord is the one behind all of the support that we do receive and secondly because we have very faithful donors that have been with us for a long time. Unfortunately our level of financial support has dropped tremendously and we feel it is essential to the ministry here that we send out a prayer request with an explanation of the need. We have been living and serving the Lord on approximately half of what is needed to accomplish the Lords work. But this year our support level has dropped to about half of that amount.

We have used up all of our personal assets and no longer have any reserves to draw on when the support level fluctuates. We know of many missionaries living and serving in the U.S. that have had to take jobs to supplement their support. But that is not an option for us. Our visa does not allow



us to have a job while we are here. We currently send out this newsletter to 297 people. We have asked in the past for people to consider donating just \$10.00 a month to our ministry. If everyone did that it would fully fund the ministry. We heard back from some people who said they couldn't give that little because they would be embarrassed, so instead they gave none. If our support continues at the current level we will have to decide if in fact the Lord wants us in Belize. Please pray with us that the Lord will provide what we need to continue serving in Belize.