Planning a Dental Mission Trip to Belize
Using Fishers of Men Mobile Clinic

Read the information concerning “Planning a Medical Mission Trip to Belize”. In addition to contacting Rev. Henry Baizar, contact for the Baptist Association of Belize, Belizebap@btl.net and Brenda Hipp, CBFNC Lay Coordinator for Belize Missions, BelizeBaptistPT@cs.com, you will work with Ralph “Buddy” Hardy, Missions Director of Fishers of Men International Missions, Inc. He is in charge of the mobile dental clinic.

Much advance planning is required to work with government and local personnel. One concern is the lack of follow-up care. If certain procedures are performed, there needs to be a place for subsequent visits and a professional available at a permanent location or from another team. Henry and Buddy can help in selecting and getting a site approved for the dental clinic.

In order to schedule use of the mobile clinic, contact Buddy Hardy at ralphhardy@bellsouth.net and plan for a time that Buddy is available to drive the mobile clinic. (Buddy does not charge for his services, but you will need to pay his out-of-pocket expenses, including transportation to Belize, if he is not already in the country at the time of your trip.)

Buddy is willing to do as much of the logistical work as needed or requested. Following is what you need to provide in order to get personnel approved.

All medical personnel are required to have a work permit in order to serve. The Medical Council of Belize will issue these permits for doctors, dentists and hygienists. A separate board will approve RN's, LPN's and Lab Tech's. This process is totally different from doctors, dentists and hygienists.

Doctors, Dentist and Hygienist: Copy of current medical license and passport. These must be sent to Medical Council at least 90 days before time of service. This council only meets once a month so timing is important. No fees or notarizing is required on these.

RN's, LPN's and Lab Tech's: Copy of diploma from medical school; Copy of current medical license; Copy of Passport. All three documents have to be notarized before going before nurses council and there is a $25.00 fee.

Equipment and supplies are needed to provide the clinic. As far as the equipment is concerned, Fishers of Men has 2 portable dental units and support equipment. i.e. air compressor, portable generator, chairs, etc. This portable clinic can support two dentists working in it together and the hygienist and support staff work in a tent or other available structure depending on location. Buddy can get one of the dentist that has served there before with FOM to give a list of needed supplies and medicines. (See # 5 and #6 on other side). Also, fuel and oil will be needed for the van and mobile clinic.

Buddy adds, “One important fact that I've learned and feel it is important for any group serving anywhere should adhere to. It is important for teams to establish a relationship with villages, schools, churches and people groups. This is done by committing to make at least an annual visit to those served. This is especially true with dentistry and we (Fishers of Men International Missions, Inc.) have seen great results by visiting the same groups each year. It may not be the exact same people serving but at least the same sending organization.”

Another possibility is to work where there is a clinic, like Body and Soul Ministries, near Belmopan. Joel Richardson is the Camp Manager and can help with getting paperwork approved for working there. Contact him at fulfilled_by_christ@yahoo.com

Brenda Hipp 2009-03-18