

Belize is First Stop for 2015 Expo Tour

In 2013 when our board decided we should not add an Expo to the schedule in 2014 but see where God would lead for expansion in 2015, little did we know it would be an international location! However, with God's guidance through prayer, discussion and seeing doors open, the Access-Life Board of Directors voted this summer to move forward with an Expo in Belize. The date for this first time outreach is set for February 8, 2015. We'll be working with another organization, Hearts of Christ, that regularly hosts mission trips to the inland area called Roaring Creek Village. In fact, they have a mission compound there, where we'll be staying and executing the Expo.

Unlike the coast of Belize the areas inland are marked with great poverty and are at least 40 years behind the United States with regard to disability awareness and understanding, as well as mobility and medical equipment. Here are a few insights from one of our board members, Tracy Lewis, who has been there several years in a row leading a women's conference for Hearts of Christ.

In Belize, it is very rare to see someone with a disability out in public and they are not allowed to go to school unless a family member or personal attendant goes with them. In turn, I was so excited when a mom came to our Women's Conference carrying her little boy named Christian who has Cerebral Palsy. She laid him in a pack-n-play in the nursery during the conference and carried him home when it was over. We remembered that we had a small wheelchair that had been shipped down a year before, so we pulled it out and the chair was a perfect fit for him! The mom stood there weeping as we adjusted the chair and said, "These are not tears of sadness, they are tears of joy! You don't know the weight this is going to take off me. Now I don't have to carry him everywhere!"



Christian gets his first wheelchair



Daisy with her daughter

We also had a lady by the name of Daisy who came the last day of the conference in a power chair. She and her father were shot at a bus station. Her father died and she was left paralyzed from the waist down. Her chair is two sizes too big for her, but she said she drives it everywhere!

A local pastor's daughter, Anna, who has intellectual disabilities joined us at the Women's Conference, too. Anna loves to worship, so we pulled her alongside of us to help lead worship and God really used her during one of our services!

With all that being said, we are seeing those with disabilities "trickle" in and by offering an Access Life Expo there (just for them), I think it'll open the door for more and more families with disabilities to come out and for us to minister to them.

The Expo itself will look quite different than those done here in the US, but we know God will be there touching lives just the same. We'll have many of the same activities we feature here domestically, but as mobility equipment and medical supplies are such a great need there, we'll also have an Access-Life "Service Station" where we can distribute items like wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bed pads, wash cloths and soap that we have collected to the individuals and families living with disabilities who attend. Shipping these collected items to Belize will be the most costly aspect of the outreach so please join us in prayer for God to guide and direct us on this new logistical challenge and as He always does provide for every financial need.



Please join us for an Expo near you! Participant and volunteer registration links as well as flyers, waivers, pictures and videos can be found online at www.access-life.org.

**Feb. 15: West Palm Beach, FL
Blessed with 891 attendees!**

**Feb. 22: Pembroke Pines, FL
Blessed with 919 attendees!**

**Apr. 26: Jacksonville, FL
Blessed with 446 attendees!**

**Jun. 14: Grapevine, TX
Blessed with 1,024 attendees!**

**Aug. 24: Dandridge, TN
Fifth Year Anniversary Celebration
Blessed with 679 attendees!**

**Nov. 15: Ocoee, FL
REGISTRATION OPEN**

Words of Life

Words are wonderful and powerful things. They have the ability to build-up or tear-down. Often times our words reflect what we see and hear around us making it so important to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in order to accurately reflect His light and love.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3