



## Hello friends and partners in

Little more than a month ago I was *planning* on devoting our Spring newsletter to celebrating the mission work of our first 2020 short-term team. I was *planning* on writing to get people excited about the work that a jam-packed mission trip schedule would be accomplishing in the months to come. I was not *planning* on this virus leading to all the changes and challenges that we now face this year.

Our human plans don't always work out. But God's plans for us never change. A favorite Bible verse of many comes from the prophet Jeremiah: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"* Given the situation of the world it may not feel very much like God's plan for us is to prosper. But, neither did it feel that way for the prophet Jeremiah's audience. They were in exile when they heard these words – ripped away from their homes, separated from worship in their temple, and at the mercy of a pagan king who ruled over them. But, that didn't change God's plans of prospering His people.

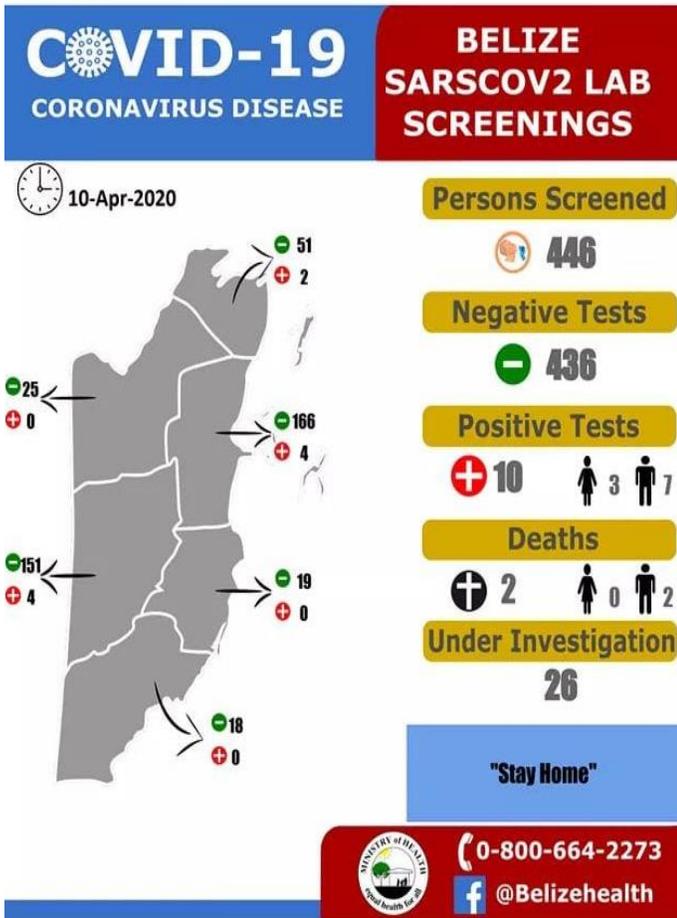
God sometimes works in very mysterious ways, and He often does His best and most holy work in seemingly hopeless situations. For His people in exile, He encouraged them through His prophet to make Babylon their new home – to build houses, plant fields, get married, and start families – to make the most of their difficult situation and to trust in Him. I am certain he wants us to do the same.

The Belize Mission Society is tackling this current problem with Christian hope. We are trusting in the Lord, making the best of our difficult situation, and seeing Him do some wonderful things in the middle of our own temporary "exile" from the country of Belize: Churches continue to support and pray for us. The missionaries that we support on the ground continue to minister. Friends of the Belize Mission Society are now reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Belize online. Belizeans are turning the table, praying for and caring for us in the United States as we are hit hard by this virus. In a variety of Spirit-led and creative ways we are seeing individuals come together to love and care for one another in the middle of a crisis. What a tremendous encouragement it has been to see unfold!

This situation is not ideal. There's no denying that. We pray for the effects of this virus to subside, for borders to open back up, for our short-term mission trips and mercy programs on the ground to resume to full capacity, and so much more. When that happens we will rejoice! Until then, we work with what we have, trusting that our loving God will bring us through even the most challenging of situations in this life. Why? Because *"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"* There's no virus that can change that.

- Pastor Duane

Covid-19 has entered Belize and has led to the typical closure of borders, businesses, schools, and public gathering. Pray for and support the people of Belize and the Belize Mission Society as we adapt and respond.



Pastor Duane is shifting daily attention toward ministering to our contacts in Belize through online individual outreach, video devotions, prayers, and Bible Study. If you have online contact with any of our friends in Belize you are encouraged to do the same! Now is the time for us all to stick together!



### Prayer Requests

- For the healthcare system in Belize.
- For the elderly and the many with pre-existing conditions in Belize.
- For the partner congregations of the Belize Mission Society.
- For the teams we have scheduled for 2020, that few trips will be affected.
- For the teachers and school children we support who are now out of class.

Help Keep the Belize Mission Society serving in this time of crisis with a special gift

