



June 2008

Dear Friend,

Greetings from Belize!

June has been a month of celebration in Belize. Students were recognized for their accomplishments, graduations took place, and dreams became reality as high school scholarships were awarded.

A little over a week ago, PathLight hosted a celebration dinner at Jaguar Creek for our scholarship students. Those students had just completed their first year of high school, making most of them the highest educated person in their family. A service team from Riverbend Church in Austin, TX was able to congratulate the students and share in the celebration. Thank you to those of you who responded to our last letter by sending in a congratulatory note. We shared the cards with the students that evening. Simply put, they felt special – and they are!

Just a few days ago, I had the privilege of being the guest speaker at the Standard Six (equivalent of 8<sup>th</sup> grade) graduation in Armenia Village where thirteen students have been awarded PathLight scholarships. I was honored to be able to address the graduates, their families and friends. What a joy it was to be able to look out at those young faces and know that many of them were being given an opportunity that they only dreamed of a few years ago. Now, because of your generosity to our high school scholarship program, many of them will be attending high school in the fall.

This year we are expanding our scholarship program to St. Margaret's Village, a rural farming community located about ten miles south of Jaguar Creek on the Hummingbird Highway. What a pleasure it is to be able to expand our ministry to the primary school there. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and working with the principal, staff, and students.

One of the students we met there is Franklin. As part of the scholarship application, each student is required to write an essay telling us a bit about themselves and why they want to go to high school. Franklin's essay begins, "My greatest dream has always been to go to high school. To be a well educated person, and contribute to my country and especially my community." Franklin then wrote about how his parents split up shortly after he was born, and that he was later mistreated by his step-father. He says, "Even knowing that I was not loved I did my best in school."

After primary school, and at the young age of 14, Franklin found himself on his own. He says, "It was sad for me being by myself. I started to work and to enjoy myself with friends that induced me into the wrong way. I thought that everything was finished for me. All my dreams of studying were vanished away."

Franklin then tells about meeting Ms. Lilly, “a person best described as an angel.” Ms. Lilly took Franklin into her home during the late fall of 2007 and encouraged him to get back in school. Since school had already started for the year, and not having the money for high school, Franklin agreed to go back to primary school and repeat Standard 6.

Today, Franklin’s face is beaming with a broad smile because PathLight will be helping him to obtain his dream – a high school education.

Franklin is one of thirteen students in St. Margaret's Village who will receive a PathLight scholarship. Our God is so gracious – allowing us to encourage and touch the lives of His precious children.

Even though speakers at many Standard Six graduation ceremonies encouraged students to continue their studies in order to achieve their highest potential, the reality is that Standard Six marks the end of formal education for most children living in the rural areas of Belize. But thanks to your support, in Armenia and St. Margaret's Villages more than thirty students now have the chance to become all that God created them to be.

Blessings,  
Adrienne Parcher  
Executive Program Director

P.S. Thanks again for the congratulation cards! Your time -- and especially your prayers -- is a great encouragement to the students. Thank you!