



July 2009

Dear Friend:

In May, a team of three women and two men ventured from the “concrete jungle” of South Central Los Angeles, to the real jungle; PathLight’s Mission and Conference Center at Jaguar Creek, Belize. The mission of this team from Bethel Unspeakable Joy Church was to provide two weekends of spiritual enrichment to PathLight’s students. I was thrilled with how this “Spiritual Encounter” event turned out and I’d like to share with you what four of the students said about it.

In the words of Denford, the weekends were “wonderful”. He said that Pastor Carol showed him that “God really exists” adding, “Before this, I didn't understand how to really reconnect with God.” When Denford “reconnected with God” on the second day of the event he said he suddenly “felt free” and got a “strong feeling that all my sins were forgiven”.

Edwin appreciated that the event was “more about our relationship with God”. Edwin was already a Christian but learned about spiritual battles and the power we have to fight them. After the encounter he saw a difference in his family life. “My parents began to treat me better. Something came out of me that was affecting my parents too. [Now] they don’t curse me or tell me I am less than my sisters.”

Franklin, whose parents left him when he was in the 8th grade, said the encounter “was special because people came from so far to teach us about God”. “It gave us more courage and examples about making decisions”. For Franklin the most valuable part was the teaching on forgiveness. Franklin is learning how to forgive people in his life who have hurt him.

Danald said, “My mom encourages us to pray and think of God, but I don’t usually listen to my mom. Hearing it from Pastor Carol and Ron was different. I learned that I have to change my ways of acting and talking. Jesus loves us and we need to respond in the same way”. He said that he used to tease and talk about people too much, but now he wants the self-control to help people. “I had no idea about praying for forgiveness. Now I know I need to do so for my own good and for my family’s good. I went home and talked to my younger sisters about how to behave, that they should respect and love God.”

All of the PathLight students were impacted by this event. Many of them expressed a desire to start making better choices in their life, such as to obey their parents, stop lying, improve their attitudes or control their anger. We are confident that God will be faithful to help them with these struggles. The work that he is doing has the potential not only to transform their lives, but also their friends, family and future children.

We are very grateful to our friends at Bethel Unspeakable Joy who made this event possible, and to all of you, who in various ways support our mission to bring hope to the children of Belize.

Blessings,

Mark Parcher  
Executive Director

PS: Want to get more involved? If you are part of a church, Bible study, or youth group please consider having your group sponsor one of our new students, go on a service trip to Belize, or both!