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BELIZE ENGINEERING TRIP

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not human masters, since you know that you will receive and inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Dear Friends of Galcom,

Our newsletter in May featured a trip taken by Tom Blackstone and Ed Bedley to visit multiple national Christian broadcasters and explore future team trips¹. On their six-day trip Tom and Ed visited 6 different radio partners dispersed throughout Belize. It quickly became apparent that although our ministry partners were excited to see us and did desire to host radio distribution teams, many of them needed technical assistance as well. Since there is currently only one Galcom engineering expert based in Canada and it would be at least two years before he could travel to Belize with all he already has on his plate, we began to pray that the Lord would make a way for us to return to Belize with a qualified radio engineer.



Kevin Hawley hard at work

The Lord answered wonderfully and in an unusual way by sovereignly connecting us to the chief engineer at a 50,000-watt AM station in Michigan. This man, Kevin, Hawley, is a dedicated Christian and agreed to join us on his vacation time to aid Belizean radio broadcasters with his engineering expertise. Tom and Kevin flew to Belize City May 13th for a very fulfilling and intense week of technical and manual work alongside our Belizean brothers.

Our first priority upon arrival to Belize was helping our host and friend, Richard Smith, get his repeater station in Belize City 100.5 FM back on the air after a two-year hiatus. The My Refuge repeater station services Belize City—the largest city in Belize with a population of about 60,000. People there were asking for the station to begin broadcasting again due to increased gang and drug violence in the area. Kevin worked tirelessly in repairing Belmopan’s 2000 watt exciter that was damaged by lightning so that it could go back up to full power and push the 93.7 signal all the way down to Belmopan and there be rebroadcast on 100.5 FM.

Using a headlamp to fix an amplifier?

Yes, you read that title correctly. Kevin was able to connect a car headlamp as a temporary solution to convince the processor in the 2000w exciter that it was okay to fully power up without damaging the unit until a proper replacement part could be ordered. Praise God that on May 16 the My Refuge repeater station went back ON AIR and a celebration/re-dedication ceremony was held that evening with local supporters in attendance!

Intercessors' Corner

Pray for...

- The continued unity of the church in Belize
- God’s Word “not to return void” (Isaiah 55) and touch people’s hearts with the Good News of the Gospel
- Tom Blackstone and the team from City Life Church in Tampa who will be distributing Galcom radios this month in western Belize.





My Refuge 100.5 FM is back ON AIR in Belize City reaching 60,000+ people with the Good News of Christ.



Another memorable God-moment on this 6-day trip was when Rev. Victor Hernandez from Toledo Christian Radio 99.9 FM (located further south near Punta Gorda) drove up to meet us at Arturo Chal's 105.3 studio in Santa Rosa where Kevin was cleaning and servicing the FM transmitters and dropped off his two damaged 500-watt transmitters. Kevin determined that one of the transmitters had a fried circuit board (\$250.00 + shipping/duties from the US) and the other had a burnt power supply (unavailable in Belize). Not long after he left, Pastor Arturo mentioned that he might have new circuit boards that someone sent him awhile back. We watched in amazement as he pulled out half a dozen or so circuit boards and our amazement turned into pure joy when Kevin examined them and said, "these are the exact boards we need to repair Victor's transmitters"!

Arturo probably would have donated these boards but Richard wisely suggested he sell them at \$250.00 each, thereby saving the other stations from the shipping and duty costs, and then using the money to keep his station operating. This is the kind of win, win solution we like—a win for both stations and the Kingdom of God.



Arturo can be seen in the sound booth with Victor listening on in the other room.

All in all, this was a very satisfying and cost effective trip. An inoperative station was put back ON AIR after a 2-year hiatus, 7 balky transmitters were diagnosed and 4 repaired. Our heart-connections to our radio partners were made stronger and they were encouraged that they are not alone in their sometimes-challenging task of proclaiming Christ so that His Good News can continue to permeate the airwaves in Belize.

Thank you, Galcom partners, for your faithful prayers and gifts that make Galcom's manifold radio outreach possible. Likewise, we are thankful for Galcom Canada founder Allan McGuirl who raised the funds for the airfare and electronic components used in putting Richard Smith's My Refuge Radio 100.5 FM back on the air. Please keep us in your prayers as we are returning to Belize July 16-20 to distribute Galcom radios alongside City Life Church in Tampa. Your continued partnership with us is greatly appreciated. For more information, please visit our website via <https://www.galcomusa.com/>.

For the Unreached,

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Exec. Director

Hefziba Alonso
Outreach Coordinator

¹ For more information see previous newsletter at <http://www.galcomusa.com/pdf/May2017Eltr.pdf>

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