

Final Belize Team Meeting Briefing Notes

- This is a fluid document. It will be the last briefing before we leave for Belize.
- Hydrate - soft drinks will NOT hydrate you! Bring electrolyte packs (no sugar). We are providing some. You can purchase your own at: <https://a.co/d/aLAAtWI1>
- We will provide purified water. You need to purchase water in a bottle of your preferred size the first day and refill it at the mission house. We will have some 500ML water bottles at the mission house. You may also bring a bottle of your own. It should be able to be refrigerated, or frozen
- Refrigerator/freezer is available in the team quarters
- Couple of stores close by the mission house (within easy walking distance)
- There will *not* be soft drinks at the mission house. There is a store approximately ¼ mile away where you can purchase soft drinks if you want them. Coke Light will be the only sugar-free drink available at restaurants
- Sunscreen - sun protection
- It will be hotter than most have ever experienced. Expect heat indexes OVER 100. Compensate. Don't push yourself if you are hot/tired/not feeling well. Stop. Get in the shade. Drink water. It is hotter than normal in Belize this year. No judgement!
- Our bird leaves TYS at 0713. At airport by 0500. Leave Concord at 0330. 2h 7m to Miami, 2h 20m to Belize
- Check-in online 24 hours prior. If you use the app, you will be notified. You can check luggage (additional cost - \$70) online, or at the airport
- Belize 2 hours behind EDT
- WiFi available at mission house, church, and in all the restaurants we will visit. No need to add international calling unless you feel the need. Internet calls (voice or video) can be made via WiFi. Put your phone in Airplane mode on the bird in MIA, then turn WiFi on (warning: may greatly decrease battery life)
- Larry (and perhaps others) will have a Belizean phone
- Protect your passport - moisture, etc. Good idea to make a photocopy of the name page of your passport. Makes it easier if passport is lost/damaged
- Don't take your full wallet! Remove everything you don't absolutely need for the trip – one credit card, driver's license (maybe), and insurance card
- Be mindful of jewelry. If your rings contain diamonds, it is best to leave them at home. Don't bring "flashy" jewelry
- Larry (and others) are checking a suitcase. If you are carrying knives, etc. you can put them in my suitcase (prefer them in a Ziploc)
- Suitcases - who is checking baggage?
- Pack supplies – 5 pillows and network gear
- VBS update
- Saturday, some will start getting ready for VBS. The rest of us will go door-to-door in the village with VBS flyers inviting them to VBS (and church on Sunday). VBS starts Sunday night. Belizean BBQ Saturday night

- In construction projects, whatever Santiago says . . . GOES! Don't ask why, just DO IT!
- Any dietary restrictions? RESTRICTIONS, NOT PREFERENCES!
- Wednesday or Thursday night - community meal for the entire village. Purpose is to put us in contact with Belizeans so we can minister/share the Gospel/invite them to be a part of BTBC. Translators will be in our group if needed. Be yourself and share Jesus!
- Testimony - share Jesus
- Make friends – engage. Just be yourself. Share what Jesus has done, and is doing in your life. Be real. Your story is HIS story!
- No politics (Belizean or American). If they ask, be non-committal and change the subject
- No political T-shirts. Be careful of the messages/images on any shirt you wear. For example, I work for the Greeneville City Schools. Our mascot is a Greene devil. For that reason, I will not take most of my work T-shirts with me. No shirts with "clever" puns that may not translate well. No alcohol related T-shirts. Best not to wear shirts that contain advertising/advocacy for products/people/causes
- No Confederate symbols.
- Don't criticize Belize, even if they do
- Don't wear team shirt to the airport
- You have nothing to declare. If they search you and want taxes, call for Larry. I will be nearby
- Get your luggage, clear customs, leave the waiting room and turn right. Form a group where you can. Larry usually tries to be one of the first of our group through customs so I can help if you encounter a problem. I will "float" between outside and customs. Brandi & Junior will be waiting for us outside
- Lunch - plain, ranch, or mayo
- Will stop at Art Box on the way FROM the mission house, we won't have any other time to go
- Notify credit card company you are going to Belize if you plan to use a CC in Belize
- Exchange rate: 2BZD to 1USD. Think it through when you are given change. No American coins. Don't take 100's unless it is an offering for the ministry. Largest bill you should take is USD \$20. \$10's are better. No need to get BZD before you leave. Everywhere we go in Belize will accept USD. In Belize, every price you see (if there is one) is BZD. That means everything is half the posted price in USD
- Medicine should be in original pharmacy bottles/containers
- If you have implanted medical devices, you need the card from the doctor, and be prepared for an in-depth search, especially leaving Belize. We will not leave the secure area in Miami
- Safe, but you should never be alone (especially females) outside the gates of the compound. Any group should include a male or a Belizean. Just be aware of your surroundings and what is happening around you. You will/should never be outside the compound alone
- Mission house is safe and secure (gated). Do NOT go down the stairs at night once Junior has released the dogs
- When outside the compound, we will always have someone who can translate
- If ANYTHING breaks the skin, Brandon or Larry need to know immediately!
- I have work gloves for everyone

- Dress for church. Otherwise, shorts and T-shirt are ok. No short shorts – should be close to knees and not tight fitting. No “little”/“tight” tank tops. Shirt straps should be credit card width. If bra strap is visible, it is too narrow
- Pray! Then, pray some more! Then, REALLY pray! Seek HIM! Let Him get ahold of you!
- Be mindful of what God is teaching you and showing you. Let Him give you His heart. When He calls you to minister, be fully present! Don’t rush! We will wait for you, and for Him!
- If God calls you to give ministry/money to someone, talk to Brandi or Junior before you commit
- When God shows you something the team needs to be involved in, talk to Brandon or Larry before committing
- Problems in country - see Brandon or Larry
- Leave Belize at 1515. At airport by 1230. Leave mission house by 0930. 1 hour and 35 minute layover at MIA. If you want something to eat, you will need to hustle. The concourse we will probably use is **HUGE**. Departure lounge at BZE good (good chocolate). Food available
- In MIA, clear customs and then move to the side and form a group
- Next year 7-13 June (tentative).