

## IRAQ - WORDS FROM BEN

submitted by Ben (ben@row.org)

Dear All,

Well, I am in Kuwait and coming home tomorrow! Tired, but great trip. *Nick Beazley* does a superb job with his Stryker Platoon of 4 Strykers. His men are proud of him and respect him as a leader. We talked a lot about his work with ROW in the future - we will see - but he has grown up and quite well!

**GUYS ARE GREAT.  
MORALE IS STRONG.  
LEADERSHIP IS STRONG  
AND FORMER ROW  
STAFF PERSON LT NICK  
BEAZLEY IS DOING A  
SUPERB JOB!!**

While in Iraq I participated in three patrols (mounted and on foot), two Humanitarian Assistance events, and two mortar missions (yes I fired a mortar - saved the platoon probably the war.. but that's another story...)

I met with *General Anthony Cucolo*, Division Commander,

a stack of Chaplains and their staffs, as well as *Colonel Adam Roche*, Nick's commander.

The Colonel included me in meetings with the City Council leaders as well as local Police and Iraq Army commanders.

*Nick* joined me on some radio broadcasts- but every day I did radio on at least five networks and stations from KLOVE to Allen Hunt to our new relationship with DOVE radio!

I got to pray and share with several individual soldiers and that was the best part of the trip. I sat with guys from Camp Mabry in Austin, TX on a C17 flight from Kuwait to Bagdad and they asked, "You're the river guy! We listen to you on KLOVE!" *Sgt. Ken Lewis* called his wife on my phone to tell her. It was very moving. They are great guys!

I hope you will check out the videos and pictures on our web site. I was actually able to post them from Iraq!!

Finally, I did a story for "Blade Magazine" (a knife magazine for the uneducated) on the knives our guys carry in Iraq.

Hard trip physically, but worth it. The only thing missing was Chris!!

I go to Congo May 26. Hope to see you before that.

God bless!

Ben





## HONDURAS, MARCH 2010

submitted by Drew (drew@row.com)

Rivers of the World (ROW) once again teamed up with the Lovett School, [www.Lovett.org](http://www.Lovett.org), for their annual spring break trip, only this time to travel to Honduras. After a year's worth of planning the team of with 33 students, faculty, parents, and staff finally arrived. Immediately the team started its bonding through the distribution of Christmas boxes to over 500 children the first day. One should note this was after having dug the remaining dirt from around a new church foundation and having poured the necessary concrete footings.



On Sunday, the team traveled to a local waterfall, Pulhapanzak, and swam Honduran style in the rapids and existing nature pools for a much needed cool down; however, from there, it was to church, which was followed by VBS in the mountain villages. By the end of day two everyone was exhausted!



then distribute gifts and supplies. By nightfall we would arrive to the lodge for a hearty dinner, usually by about 7:00, and the evening would end in group discussion and a time of devotion. Whew! Each day we would change some sequence of the events above, however, one thing was for sure: each day was hot, full of work, and took a lot of energy and patience.

During the week, we also spent time with the local schools. This was intense. Everyone had a job and we spent time making sure we had a plan before we rolled in. On one occasion, after interacting with the children (playing games, making arts and crafts, etc.), the principle dismissed all the students for recess and challenged our team to a basketball game. The local news reporters even showed up. Despite a heart wrenching loss to the Hondurans it was a cheerleader's escapade!

Throughout the week, part of our goal was to also learn about the local culture. Although we weren't able to travel to Copan (the local ancient Mayan Ruins) due to the schedule and due to construction on the Pan-



American Highway we couldn't visit the caves we were able to visit a local sugar-cane refinery and also several coffee plantations -both provide incredible exports for the country and are small scale operations. It is hard to believe the coffee and sugar we come to know in the US starts in such an environment. The last day we also spent some time in the city at a local market.

It seemed that you could buy almost anything there... from a watch to a fish, a hammock or even a painting. It was also interesting to see several of the local carvings that folks would make and how several of the musical instruments would come from the same type of wood as well.



At night we stayed in the lake region known as Lake

Yojia. It was amazingly beautiful. Several of the days we would go out and swim and saw some of the lake. The country has vast changes in terrain, from mountain villages that are so steep you wonder how we ever made it all the way up, to the valleys that seem to go on forever. All in all we had a great week and learned a lot about Honduras, the people, the culture, and the climate. In the future everyone will look forward to seeing the new church under roof and it's members serving Him.



**CONGO** submitted by Jimmy Shafe (jimmy@row.org)

**Coins For Congo - Safe Drinking Water project** will help over 5,000 families!

Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer in Snellville, GA and Trinity Lutheran in Lilburn, GA teamed up on a Lenten project to collect Coins For Congo to fund the installation of water filtration systems in the Kasai province



in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The gravity-fed systems are a simple construction design that taps into existing springs. However, the existing springs are not located where containers can be filled without contaminating the water - thus the need for these filtration systems. Approximately 600 to 700 families will be served daily from each spring. The cost is only \$816 each. Between the two churches and some Facebook friends the total collected was \$6,821.42! This is enough to complete eight systems and will provide safe water to more than 5,000 families! With an infant mortality rate of over 9% and 20% of children passing away before their 5th birthday, these systems will save lives!

The process was simple - families were asked to place an empty water glass on their kitchen counter or breakfast table and begin collecting their coins. The empty glass symbolized the simple fact that these families in Congo do not have access to safe drinking water. On Easter morning families brought their coins forward in Ziploc bags and placed them in a basket. The coins were sorted and counted by ROW instead of using a for-fee system, so 100% of the funds will be able to go to support the installations. The work in Congo will be done through Good Shepherd Hospital near Kananga.



Comments made included, "It was completely painless!" "The kids got so excited about it!" "Instead of giving up chocolate or something for Lent we gave up our change and actually did some good!"

**CONGO BARGE**



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✂ cut, post, &amp; pray

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Summer is here and it is time once again to ask you to pray for ROW Teams heading out to represent the Lord all over the world! ROW will be building, praying, healing, caring, educating, and serving in the Lord's Name in Africa, Asia, and the Americas!

**Please pray specific prayers for:**

Congo  
Honduras  
Dominican Republic  
Brasil  
Belize

ROW Teams from Oklahoma to Tennessee take to the air to face the challenges of serving in far away lands.

*Drew and KT* are back from Honduras where they led a team of over 40 from the Lovett School. Read the amazing report and marvel at the pictures on page 2.

*Omba* is directing the construction of a new barge for the Congo and it's named after our own 3!!! In 2011 we want a medical team to climb on that barge and heal in the most remote river basin we serve!! Contact the office!!!

Our Fall Auction, "Its All About Water" is all about water wells and ROW we need your help! (see page 5)

The boats are full in Brasil! Rejoice and go!!

We are about to birth a new maternity ward in Belize!!

*Ben* is back from Iraq where he was with former ROW staffer, *Lt. Nick Beazley*! Ben will be in Congo next and then Honduras!

The Wizard has news about receiving ROW on your phone and lpad!

So much to pray for! So many reasons to give thanks!

**ROW**  
RIVERS OF THE WORLD  
International Exploration & Development  
www.row.org

## PUNTA GORDA, BELIZE

TOLEDO MATERNITY ANNEX CONSTRUCTION UPDATE submitted by Charlie Joe Green (charliegreen53@gmail.com)

We are a little off schedule finishing the walls but right on schedule to put the roof on starting June 7th. Finishing the second floor walls came out to be a little more work than what I had expected. I decided to use blocks for the gable ends instead of ply-cem because of time and cost difference.

The extra height to lift the concrete to the top of the wall for the ring beam and column pour was slow. We brought in extra labor for a big concrete pour day and completed the outside and inside walls. That shoved my labor cost up for April. Also, an inside wall was extended that I had cut out of the original plan and cleanup became a necessity and that also required extra labor for the month.



However, from the picture above of March 14th to the picture on the left of May 8th I spent approximately \$6,000 in materials and labor so, I am satisfied with the work.

I have a volunteer team of six coming from Mississippi June the 7th through 12th to put the roof on. In July I have a team of approximately 16 that should finish the ceilings and start installing doors and windows. The roof will be wood rafter construction with galvalum metal sheets. The ceilings will be constructed of 4x8 ply-cem sheets.

## VIETNAM Go to wuk@row.org for more information.

Needy children in Vietnam can be sponsored to allow them a college education for about \$500 per year. A four year commitment is needed but year by year is okay, too. Funds can be sent to ROW designated for Vietnam educational support. We will match anyone so desiring to sponsor a student and send back pictures and information on the child. Many orphans and poor children will not have opportunity to better themselves without our help.

**NEED A KEYNOTE SPEAKER? WANT TO MEET BEN MATHES, Explorer/ Humanitarian/Honored Rotarian?** Ben is available to speak pro bono to churches, mission teams, committees, civic organizations, schools, retreats, etc. Our goal is to spread the name and mission of ROW. Email amanda@row.org (Amanda Weihrauch) to schedule.

Available dates 9/12, 9/19, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 8/11, 8/18, 9/15, 9/22, 10/6, 10/13, 10/19

# "It's All About Water" Event and Auction...

## Did You Know . . .

- Every 8 seconds a child dies from waterborne disease?\*
- 1.2 billion people are at risk of contracting disease by drinking water?\*
- Approximately 80% of diseases in the world come from unclean water?\*
- Millions of people live in remote areas that can only be reached by a river?
- Over 17 million people in 25 countries are infected with river blindness?\*

*But Did You Know?...YOU have the ability to change this!*

\*source: World Health Organization & the CDC

Net proceeds from the event and actions will fund giving hope and changing lives through fresh water wells and river ministries to the nations. %10 of net income will be donated to Children's healthcare of Atlanta to provide medical needs to Atlanta's children.

**When:** Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Atlanta Country Club,  
500 Atlanta Country Club Drive, Marietta, GA 30067

**Who:** Anyone, private or corporate, with a passion to help with the human, physical, medical, and spiritual needs of the nations and all supporters of the missions of Rivers of the World and Widow's Mite Experience.

**Why:** Rivers of the World and Widow's Mite Experience want to provide the opportunity for the community at large to be a part of their goal to raise funds to supply fresh water, medical care, physical help, and spiritual support through a fun and heartfelt charitable event and auction.

**Cost:** \$100 per ticket - Featuring hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, a silent auction, and a live auction.

Event information, updates, and tickets may be purchased by visiting the event website at [www.riversandwells.com](http://www.riversandwells.com) or from ROW and WME ministry partners.

## DOMINICAN, APRIL 2010

submitted by Jack R. Wehmiller ([jwehmiller@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwehmiller@bellsouth.net))

## Spring Break for the Medical College of August Students



Clinic in Batey 7



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*Rivers of the World & Widow's Mite Experience  
come together to give hope and change lives*

Details on page 5



**Saturday, September 25, 2010**  
**6:30pm**  
Atlanta Country Club  
500 Atlanta Country Club Drive  
Marietta, GA 30067

Tickets for the event may be purchased  
by visiting the event website at  
[www.riversandwells.org](http://www.riversandwells.org)

*It's All About Water!*  
*Charity Event and Auction*

