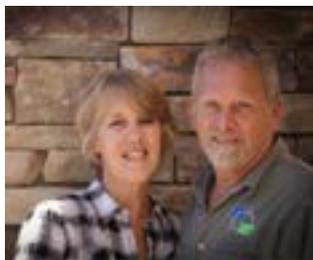


# Oasis Ministry

## Ron & Linda Braaten

### Belize

Ron and Linda Braaten have served in Belize, Central America since 1999, and are the founders and directors of Oasis Ministry. Oasis is a non-profit mission organization reaching out to the people of Belize. They are committed to caring for the needs of the community, to connecting the community to God, and to cultivating a Christian lifestyle in those who come to know Christ as their personal Savior.



They host short-term missions teams throughout the year. Ron organizes and directs any projects such as building houses or repairing structures. They host between 10-15 teams per year, some doing construction and others focusing on different ministries. Linda is in charge of the logistics of the teams, such as housing and meals.

#### **Report on 2016**

Ten teams came in 2016 and were able to build two houses, two classrooms for local schools, two playgrounds and two libraries in the schools were refurbished. One team was able to build a veranda on the home of two elderly women and there were other painting and repair jobs.

We had a Drama Camp in August and a Summer School for 3 weeks in July. Along with that teams did a few VBS programs at Oasis and in other villages.

Our main goal in ministry is to disciple Belizeans to be able to become leaders in our ministry. Tiffany is doing all of the preschools this school year. We closed the one at our base because of lack of students, but we will be reopening in September of 2017. We have preschools in Duck Run and San Marcos. The preschool structure will be changing to a preschool club meeting 3 days per week. This new structure allows us to reach communities that cannot attend the formal preschools because of location.

Oasis Ministry also sponsors children for primary school. The children earn their sponsorship through the children's programs. The sponsors give a one-time donation for the school year to provide the children with their school tuition and supplies. Our preschool clubs are also sponsored so that we don't have to charge families for tuition.

This year in May Ron had an accident and required knee surgery. Unfortunately, the surgery was not successful and he had to have it done again in December. The first was done in the US, but the second one he decided to have in Belize.

We presently have children living with us in Belize. These are children who were in difficult situations and needed a safe place to live. There are four girls;

Irma, Nicole, Elbia and Ahmani. Three older boys are living on the compound and are finishing high school and college.

### **Looking ahead to 2017**

We are going to focus more on the team part of our ministry and the children's programs. The team part is about taking more time to make sure that teams have a chance to interact with the community and with us. We were so busy trying to connect them with the church that we didn't connect them with the missions aspect of our ministry.

With the children's programs we are going to try to connect more with the schools as well as with our Friday night Salt & Light program. We will do this through the library and events throughout the school year. Teams will play a large role in that. We are also expanding our summer school to four weeks.

We will also be rearranging our facility to better accommodate teams. With Mt Hope Bible Church no longer onsite we can move the dining area and kitchen facility to those buildings. We feel that we need to have our house more of a personal space for the sake of the girls we have living with us.

We have four girls, Irma – 15 years old and attending high school, Nicole – 13 years old and Elbia – 11 years old. They are both in primary school. Then we have Ahmani who is 5 years old. Linda is homeschooling her at this time. Tiffany and Sondra both work for us helping with ministry and the teams.

Thank you for your continued and faithful support for our ministry.

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