

Juan Bernardo and Maria Isabel Marentes serving in San Ignacio , Belize , share their story of God at work through their ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Belize:

The present picture shows the first attempt to reach to the destitute in San Ignacio. There are a number of them in town; we felt we could not ignore and avoid them, so we encouraged the vestry start doing something with them. Last September five members of the vestry and us cooked and went to look for them at 10 p.m. We found 12 of them.

They were extremely happy and wondered why we were doing it. It was a magnificent opportunity to tell them that 'we were doing it as a token of God's love for them through our simple action', we told them that we felt overwhelmed by God's touch of love in our lives that we needed to extend it to them. Albert, the first one sitting on the left, did not stop crying all the time; Lincoln (third on the sitting row L to R) was the only who saved the food for later on. He wanted to hold my hand all the time and hug me. He said, 'I value your visit, we need to be heard, no one wants to talk to us....' Last Sunday Albert, Lincoln and three more were in church for the whole service. They came with the best clothes they could afford.

Maria and I feel a special call from God to put attention to these homeless children of God.



This is the same first visit to the homeless in the park. Ellis (in the center) is a musician who sang Christian songs. Our team started at 9:30 p.m. in prayer at church, and then went to the park at 10 p.m. We said 'bye' to the men at midnight.



Home visitation is crucial in our ministry. The two Anglican Churches and the three Anglican Schools had not had a residential priest over the past three years.



The Jones' family in the picture was pleased having our visit. When we visit, we learn names, a little bit of the history of the family, and always we read some passage of the Scripture and pray for them.



St. Hilda's is a little rural mission. It has a Primary School. Sunday services used to be one a month; now we are offering a service every Sunday with Holy Eucharist and a Thursday-night Bible study. This is a beautiful opportunity to bring back many people who dropped out church in the past.



Our time and ministry with the three Anglican Primary Schools is a main component of our missionary call. 800 students in total is the challenge for us to lead them to Christ and to disciple with Christian values.

