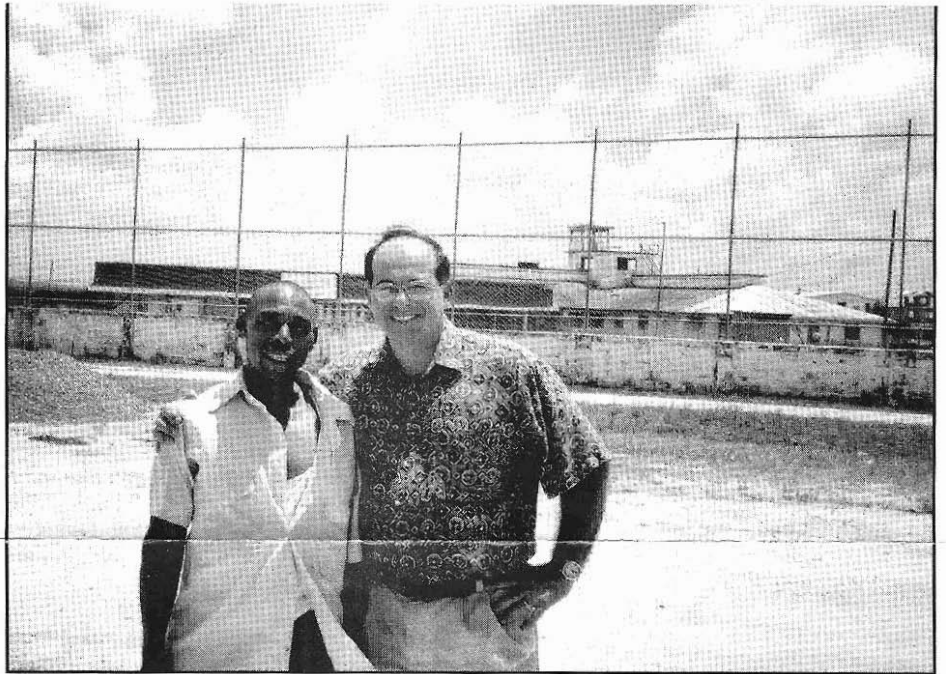


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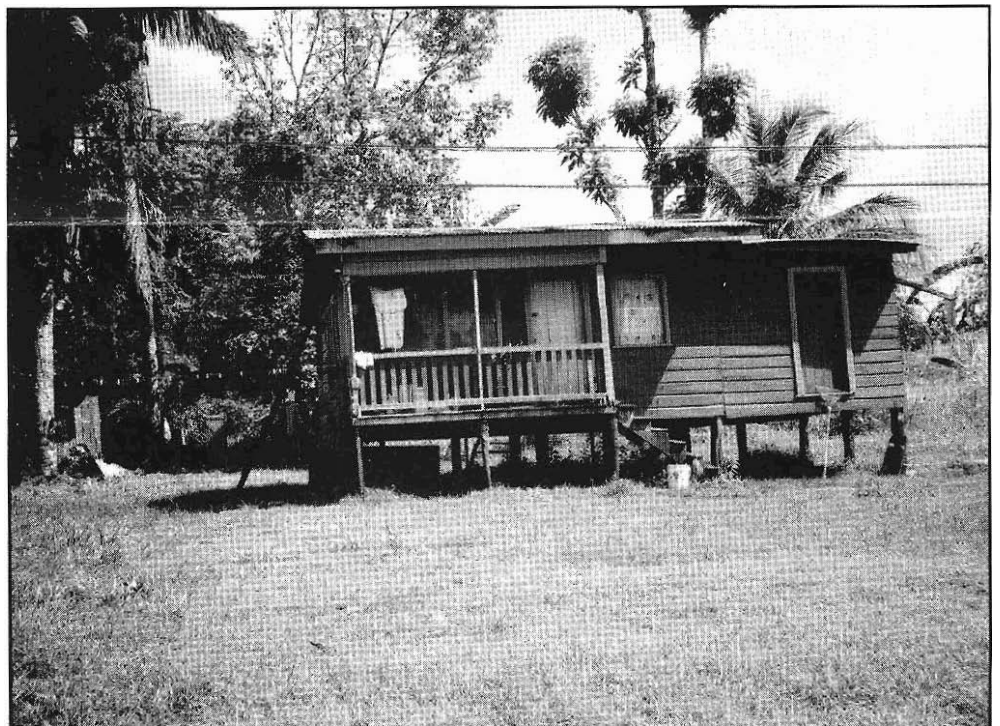
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Hativille- From Mayan to Mennonite the peoples of Belize and their cultures are very diversified. There are Mestizo (The Central American Indians mixed with Spanish), Creole (blacks who speak a broken English with a rhythmic caribbean accent) and the Garifuna. The Garifuna speak their own language and have their own distinct Carribian African culture. These are just the major groups that populate this tiny and multi culturally diversified country. Barry Smith, the missionary that helped to organize my itinerary has a children's home, some of the children that are of Mayan descent speak up to four languages.

One morning Barry dropped me off at the National prison, the only prison in Belize. Instantly I saw a cross section of the Belizean population. The first to catch my eye was a father and son, blond haired blue eyed Mennonites. The prison currently is housing approximately one thousand men and women (a couple hundred female inmates). Capitol punishment is by hanging. The gallows are in full view in the middle of the complex. It is a cabin like structure on high stilts. You can imagine the fear that the capitol offenders face as they have a daily reminder of their fate.

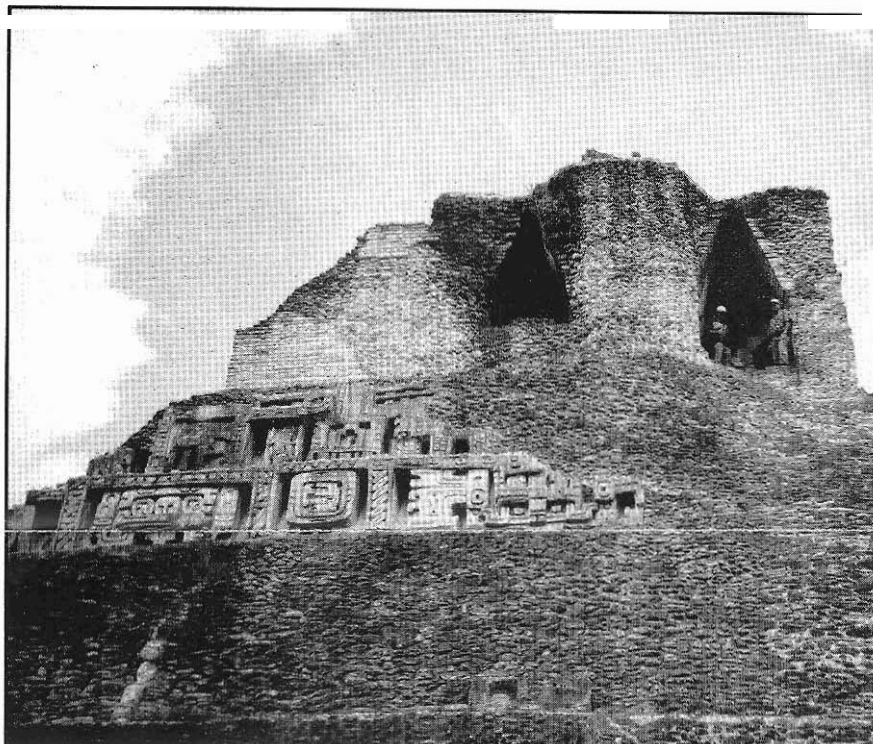
I traveled down the cell blocks. The floor of rugged chipped away concrete was full of dirty sewage water that I stood in. There were cell blocks to my left and to my right. I told the men stories of what Christ did for the prisoners I ministered to in Mexico and prayed with four cell blocks of men Many of them prayed to receive Christ for the first time.



It was recess time and they let several hundred out of their cells. I was supposed to speak at the chapel that morning but the penitentiary workers used the chapel for an extended training session. There were a dozen prisoners that wanted to hear the word of God the Chaplin felt that since we did not have sufficient time reserved nor the usual turn out that we should cancel. I told him I don't care if it's 5 instead of 500 or 5 minutes instead of an hour. So, the dozen men sat as the Word was brought forth and the Spirit flowed along with the tears. God touched the hearts of these men as they were challenged to be better fathers and citizens. Those who were not yet Christians became...

Together we touch the world!

*Lee & Carol*



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## Mayan To Mennonite

*Hativille, Belize*

