

INDIAN CHURCH VILLAGE AND SAN CARLOS VILLAGE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS

These two villages, established about 20 years ago when the residents came as refugees from war-torn Guatemala, are located in the Orange Walk District of Belize adjacent to the Maya site of Lamanai. This is a rural area, by car about a one hour drive from Orange Walk Town. Neither village has electricity, although a network of wires supplies limited power from privately-owned generators to many of the villagers for a few hours each night. Indian Church village has an artisans' center with solar power and intermittent internet service, and San Carlos has or will soon have a small solar power system in the primary school.

The villages have PTA's, but they are mostly involved with limited fundraising for celebrations and school trips. Many of the parents speak only Spanish, so it is challenging for the children to learn proper English here. Many of the adult villagers have had little or no formal education and are about half are illiterate.

Teachers in Belize primary schools often have limited education, some having only finished high school—not necessarily in a teacher-training program. The teachers in these villages are changed frequently so there is little continuity from year to year. Many of the teachers have limited computer experience, especially those who are from remote rural areas.

These two schools have about 50 students in each school, divided among three classrooms. The Belize school system is based on the British school system. These schools group the levels into three classroom divisions as follows, with approximate enrollment as indicated:

Infant Division Female 13 Male 7

Infant 1
Infant 2
Standard 1

Middle Division Female 10 Male 10

Standard 2
Standard 3
Standard 4

Upper Division Female 4 Male 6

Standard 5
Standard 6



Indian Church Primary School Buildings



Indian Church students in their classroom on Dia de los Muertos

The Indian Church Village Government Primary School

- Eutimo Magana, Principal, teaches the Upper Division. He commutes daily to Indian Church.
- Sarah Ramos is the Infant Division teacher. She lives in Indian Church Village with her family.
- Noel Carrillo is the Middle Division teacher. He commutes daily from San Felipe.

The San Carlos Village Government Primary School

- Fred Lopez, Principal, teaches the Infant Division. He and his family reside in Indian Church Village.
- Middle Division
- Upper Division