

Julie Williams

Belize Update

March 31, 2008

Dear Family,

March has been a month of fun, changes and adventures. The days seem to fly by incredibly fast, and I am left realizing that I have just over two months left here in Belize.

School was a bit different this month. One of the math teachers at school became sick and was sent back to the states for health care. With her leaving, there was a need for all her classes to be covered. I was one of the teachers with openings in the afternoons and was thus given the responsibility of teaching the ninth grade math class. Talk about an adventure. It had been about four years since I had taken a math class, and math never was my favorite of subjects. I dug out a calculator and spent the night before my first class working problems over and over again until it started to come back to me. By the end of the evening, I was actually enjoying it and the fact that if I just followed the steps and formulas I would always get the right answer. What a concept! The students were extremely patient with me in class though, and it ended up being a fun experience. We even celebrated Pi day on March 14th (3.14) by decorating t-shirts, eating real pie and playing math games. With mixed feelings, I will turn the math class back over to the original math teacher as she has now returned from the states. I have a feeling the students will be quite happy to see her back!

It is track and field season here in Belize. I am, once again, coaching the girl's team. We began practicing in the beginning of March three days a week. The concept of practicing for a sport is foreign here, and it is challenging to get students to commit to coming to practices and being faithful in their attendance. This year I set up a minimum number of practices that the girls had to attend in order to be apart of the team, and this seemed to motivate them some. Our first meet will be April 5th and depending on how we place will determine if we continue from there.

We had two weeks of Easter Break this month, from March 17th to March 31st. It was relaxing being off school and having a chance to catch up on work that had been overlooked. A couple from home came down during my first week of spring break, and I was able to travel around Belize with them as their tour guide/ child. It was fun to do and see some things that I had not before seen or done. They definitely spoiled me! Then another friend from back home came down near the end of the second week of break. It is always wonderful to see friends from home

and be encouraged by them. God has given me such a support team.

My living situation continues to be a blessing. I get fresh vegetables from the garden my landlady has planted, which included corn this month. My landlady is actually going to Spain for four months beginning in April, so it will be quiet around my house with just her parrots and me. The parrots have become my built in morning alarm.

Church continues to go well. We had a joint Easter service with some of the other Presbyterian churches from surrounding villages. It was neat to see the church full and everyone worshipping together. Please pray for the leadership of my church in particular. Recently there were several men nominated for positions of leadership. Pray that they would be diligent in the preparation for leadership and that, eventually, they would be strong leaders that would train, discipline and lead the congregation.

I would also ask you to pray for my students as they all return to school this week. I pray that they will be refreshed and ready to get back to their studies. Also pray that God would give me enthusiasm as I return to teaching and strength as life gets back to full swing again.

Continue to seek God and serve Him alone. Let us glorify Him in every aspect of our life as our Lord and our Savior. Corinthians 10:31. Let our desire be for Christ to be exalted whether in our death or in our life!

In Christ,

Julie Williams