

# Julie Williams

## Belize Update – Life in Belize

### May 1, 2008

I took a day trip today across the Bay of Corozal over to Sarteneja. It was a holiday, and one of my friends and I decided it would be nice to have a day away from everything. Today I was reminded of how beautiful God's creation is. He has created an incredible world as diverse and unique as the people He designed to rule over it. As I sat on the dock in Sarteneja watching the fishermen work on their sailboats, so many thoughts went through my head. Here I am, in Belize, in Central America being a part of God's eternal plan. And the great thing is, is that He has His children all throughout the world accomplishing His purposes. God is using each of us everyday to reach the lost, be a witness of His incredible love and share with others the freedom only Christ can bring into our lives. What an incredible calling we have!

As each day passes I seem to become more and more contemplative about what God is doing in my life and here in Belize. I have five more short weeks left in this country. I reflect over my time here, the challenges, growth and inspiration I have had. I can hardly believe that this chapter of my life is soon closing. I know that God has a purpose in taking me back to the states for a time, but my heart still longs to be here as well. My children have won my heart and the thought of being away from them breaks it. My desire is to embrace these last few weeks in every possible way and to be excited about the future God has prepared for me.

This past month was a busy one at Cornerstone. The students were preparing for science fair, which took place this past Tuesday and Wednesday. This absorbed much of their time and thoughts, meaning there were sacrifices made in all other subject areas. However, many of the projects were extremely well done and showed that the students had put forth a lot of effort. In my social studies and English class, we are finishing up our study on Africa next week. We will have an "Africa Day" next week Thursday where we will cook and eat different African foods, play a variety of African tribal games and just enjoy what we have learned. We will then begin our "South America condensed" study and before I know it, students will be taking their finals. Where does the time go?

The track and field season went extremely well. Sports seasons here consist of two competitions- regionals and nationals. Talk about a short season. We had eight students that placed well enough at regionals to continue on to nationals. One of our second form girls, in fact, won the 100-meter run for the whole northern district of Belize. It was quite exciting. Nationals took place in Belize City two weekends ago. Sadly, none of our runners placed high enough to continue on to the Central American games in Honduras, but they all did give their best effort. I am excited to hear about how they place next year. There is some real talent in the students; it just

needs to be cultivated.

The Romans Bible study is continuing to go well. We are studying chapter 13, Lord willing, on Sunday afternoon. We are almost finished. I am so encouraged every week by the questions and growth that I see from Enrique, Gloria and Dora. Of all the things I am involved in here in Belize, this is something I will miss the most. We have been rotating houses for the study, between Dora and Enrique's, Gloria's and my house. I recently had them here and had cooked a broccoli and chicken casserole. Broccoli is a luxury here in Belize, and I had randomly been able to find some at one of the larger grocery stores. I was so excited about the meal and just had to laugh when all three of them picked every piece of broccoli out of the casserole and scrapped it to the side of their plate. "Miss! It's a vegetable. We don't eat vegetables!" they told me. Needless to say, I ate a lot of broccoli that night. \_ I have also taught the three of them to play the card game Uno, which has become an after Bible study tradition. Last time I was at Dora and Enrique's house, we taught their little nieces and nephews how to play and then played time and time again, all piled up on the bed. These are the things I will greatly miss.

I would beg you to pray for me as I conclude my time here in Belize. Please pray that God will give me strength to finish out these last couple weeks and that I will finish out as strong as possible. Please also pray that God will give me peace as I say goodbye to the many people that have become a second family to me.

I have accepted a job back in my hometown of Niceville, teaching at Rocky Bayou Christian School. Lord willing, I will be teaching English, literature and history for middle school students. I have also been accepted at the local college to return to school and work to obtain my teacher's certification. God has blessed me so richly in opening doors and providing opportunities. I thank the many of you that have been praying that God would give me wisdom as I considered the different job opportunities. Your prayers were appreciated and heard!

Another large blessing in my life is that all of my support for the remainder of my time with MTW has been raised. I have all of the funds needed for the completion of my time here in Belize. I thank the many of you, who are my financial supports, for your generous gifts. God has been faithful and good to provide for all my needs.

I would encourage you to embrace today- this day! The Lord our God has made today for our enjoyment and for us to glorify Him in it! Continue to follow closely after Him!

Yours in our Savior,

Julie Williams