

Dear Family and Friends

How many of you struggle with waiting? I find waiting hard. Right now I am back in the waiting game. Waiting for the middle of March so I can apply for an extension to my visa and then more waiting while Home Land Security make the decision. I think this is why I have not been able to write a newsletter. I have tried several times, but it just would not come together. Recently God showed me that whichever way the visa goes it's a win/lose situation. I get to stay, but lose out on family and friends. If I go back to NZ I get to be with those I love, but lose the school and all that means to me. This has helped me and I am now in a place where I can say let God's will be done.

We have had a lovely cool January and February. Usually by now the weather is hotter, so we are enjoying the extra spell of coolness. Long may it last!

School has been going well. We have just begun some teaching about Easter. It is great to see how much they already know about it. For the older kids it is helping them to understand the sacrifice of our Lord at a deeper level and for the younger ones it is retelling the story, so that eventually they will understand what it is all about.

Personally I have been looking at chapters 18, 19 and 20 of the Gospel of John. This has challenged me to consider once again the cost of Jesus' death on the cross and what this means for me. I trust that you too are being challenged in these weeks leading up to Easter and that you are able to put some time aside to meditate on His Word.

We have a work team coming on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and then another before school ends in May. There are other visitors in between. Jenn Sands is coming back to visit me in April. It will be lovely to explore some places we haven't been to yet and also to spend a couple of days relaxing in an air conditioned hotel on the beach. I am really looking forward to just being able to relax. I am sure we will use up a lot of words over the time she is here.

Please pray for our school families. There are two families with members who have serious illnesses. Several families are struggling with other issues. Pray that we can be salt and light to them and help us to understand the best ways to support them.

Last Sunday was an interesting day. I took a friend to church with me and when we were close to her home we had to wait on traffic and there were policemen there and then we noticed a funeral was being held at the cemetery. We thought it must have been someone important who died. I dropped my friend off and as it came to the place where they were having the funeral I realized there was a bike ride happening and that's why the police were there. They were directing traffic. I sat and waited for about five minutes for the bikes to pass, and while this was going on the skies opened and it poured. Poor bikers! I started off again, and discovered the traffic lights were out. The intersection was a maze of cars. I really thought the way they were all jammed together, and nothing was moving, that there had been an accident, but that was not the case. After waiting a few minutes the situation improved enough for me to proceed home. Driving here is still a challenge for me. I have to keep constantly reminding

myself which side of the road I need to be on and also watching out for the bad drivers that seem to be everywhere.

Think that's about it from me for now.

Thanks for all your support and love and for understanding the delay in writing this

Judy

Praise:

- \*for extra local volunteers lightening our work load
- \* for four young ladies coming to work at the school next year
- \*improvement in my health

Pray for:

- \*the four young women trying to raise their support
- \*families with sick members
- \*families with many difficulties
- \*strength and health as the hot weather begins
- \*God's will to be done in the matter of my visa
- \*times of refreshment over our Easter break

Thanks for partnering with me.