

Judy's Jottings

JUDY MORE

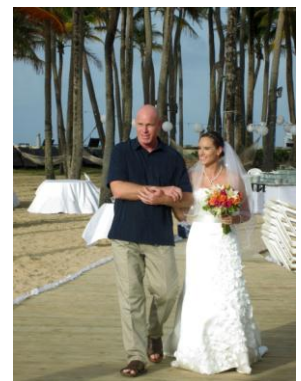


WORKING IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN PUERTO RICO

AUGUST 2012

Dear Family and Friends

So much has happened since I last wrote it's hard to know where to begin. July was a very busy month with Jen and Peter's wedding. It was a lovely day. The wedding was in the early evening outside at a hotel. The setting was amazing and it was wonderful to see these two precious people get married and dedicate their marriage to God. Jen and Peter left the island towards the end of the month. Delaney (Jen's dog) went with them. I shared an apartment with both of them and it was hard the first few days not having either of them around.



There seem to have been few farewells recently. The pastor of the church I go to has moved with his family to be missionaries in the Dominican Republic. The church currently has three different speakers filling the pulpit while they wait on God to show who will be the next pastor.



August saw the beginning of the school year. Where did the summer go to? We started with a team of visitors from Kansas running a Bible programme around the story of Daniel. The kids had a lot of fun and it was a god way to get them back into the habit of paying attention again. One afternoon we had our own Olympics.

This year the school day is organized a little differently. Instead of being responsible for a class Elizabeth, Betsy and I have shared the subjects between us. I teach reading and Bible as my main to subjects. The children have been put into three groups and they move from teacher to teacher. I am really enjoying the variety of the different age groups. It took staff and students a few days to settle into the new routine, but it now seems to be working well.

Sadly the two little girls who were coming with their parents from the other end of the island have not returned to us this year. Their parents have decided to send them to a local school, which I can understand, but I am also aware of the progress they were making with us. The school where they are going will not have teachers with sufficient skills to teach deaf children. This means we have eight students. The younger hearing sibling of one of our students is coming two mornings a week to learn sign language so that she can communicate with her sister. It will be exciting to see this little girl as she learns sign language and English. Currently she only speaks Spanish.

We have two more workers this year. Casey is new to us and is supporting a variety of school programmes and Stefanie returns to us for another year. She is working in the preschool and also organizing the school lunches. Kristian is working with her to prepare lunches and learn skills in food preparation, as he thinks he would like to work in this area when he leaves school.

I am getting to write this today as we have a day off school. Tropical Storm Isaac was supposed to hit us yesterday and today. Yesterday we decided to open for a half day as the rain was expected in the afternoon. Only one student came to school, so it was good to be able to give her some 'one on one' teaching. We prepared for the storm and waited. We had a couple of brief thunder storms yesterday and that as all. The storm was supposed to hit over night, but nothing came. It is supposed to be really wild weather now, but all we have is a slightly strong wind. I am thankful for electricity, because usually with these storms it is either turned off, or goes off because of broken lines. I am a little disappointed that we have not got to see God's power at work. I do love a thunder storm!

My visa situation remains the same. I am waiting to hear the result of the school's application to invite me to stay. Initially they said it could take at least two months. I saw on the website yesterday that this has been adjusted to five months. This means I could be waiting for another two and a half months before hearing anything. God is developing the fruit of patience in me.

Aaron and Sarah are expecting their second child in January. I have just heard it is another boy, so I will have four precious grandsons. Kara and Neill have bought their own home in Christchurch and are enjoying having a place of their own to work on. It needs a little tender loving care to make it more comfortable, but nothing major. Jason, Iley and Bradley have settled well into Auckland. Jason still needs permanent work. His job is only temporary and there is not much work about at the moment, so please pray that the right situation would open up for him.

With love and prayers

Judy

Praise:

- For a good start to the school year
- For new staff
- For new grandchildren to get to know, love and enjoy

Pray :

- For the students to continue to be motivated to work and learn especially in Bible class
- For staff to have creative ideas when teaching the student
- For us all to be able to manage daily life when it is so hot and humid
- For times of resting in God
- For staff meeting on Monday night and staff Bible study on Thursday night
- For the families of some deaf children who have enquired about coming to the school
- For my visa situation
- For Palmas Community Church as they seek God's direction for the future