

WORKING IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN PUERTO RICO

JUNE 2012

Dear Family and Friends

Since I started this there have been some changes to my situation. I now know that I am in the system and that they are currently processing my visa, so hopefully I will know the outcome soon.

As I sit on my porch I look out to a small glimpse of the mountain that is part of the rain forest. Recently the verse from Psalm 121: 1-2I "look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!" has come to mind as I have sat there thinking about life and waiting and futures. I am so thankful to know that God is in control and that He is my help and always with me.

Recently in my devotions I have been reading about the need to have people as part of your team and I am so thankful for each and every one of you. I did a count up the other day and thought I know of over 250 people who are praying for my visa situation and for me as I wait the outcome. That is only the people I know of, and because of all the people who take an interest in the school and pray for the school, there are many more I am sure. Isn't that exciting? I am touched and humbled by it.

Last week it was my birthday. Betsy had some family visiting and we dropped them at the airport to make their journey home and then we went to Cagaus, a city about an hour from the school. We went to a restaurant there for lunch. Yummy!! When we had finished we went to the botanical gardens.

What an unexpected treat. As we walked through the gardens I saw plants that my parents had growing at one of their houses and then others that grew wild in Roxburgh, where I grew up. Then as we walked we came across a suspension bridge So many memories of walking across one in Roxburgh Hydro that crossed the Clutha River and linked the village with the rest of the world, and wanting, and yet not wanting a car to come, while we were on the bridge to make it swing madly. The bridge in the gardens only had a slight swing I am happy to say. We drove home and stopped at a new ice cream store that has opened recently. A day spent with friends, good food and many memories. What could be better!



Over the summer we are doing activities with the children one day a week. The first one was the beach and boat day. I missed that because I was taking someone to the airport. A fun day was had by all though. The next activity was another beach day. We went to Luquillo Beach and were joined by the Yodders, a family that volunteer with us. Betsy and Jen brought cup cakes and candles to the beach so we could celebrate my birthday, and Rebekka Yodder's birthday, with the kids. A tradition here is to have cake icing smeared on your face when it's your birthday.



Yesterday we went to the zoo at the other end of the island. It was a very long day. 12 hours in all. The zoo was fantastic. It was very hot, but that didn't stop the kids from enjoying visiting with the various animals they have there. Here Chris is helping Saul reach out to feed the elephant.



Next week we have our Vacation Bible program. The school will be full. We have a team of 15 coming to help run it. Two deaf families will stay at the school, three of the older boys will sleep over, as will Juan, our youngest student who comes from a neighbouring island. It should be a busy, but fun week.

Hope that those of you in NZ are not finding the winter too cold. We are having a hot and very dry summer. The temperatures are in the 30-32 degree range and the humidity is around 85%.

Think that is all for now. Hope to be contacting you with news of my visa very soon.

Love and blessings

Judy

Praise God for:

*The letter from immigration

*Fun times with the students

Pray for:

*A positive outcome to the visa application

*Continued safety and fun through out our various summer activities

*Times of rest and relaxation amongst the things we need to get done

*For Jen and Peter as they get married on July 17th and begin their married life together

*Strength and stamina to manage the heat