

Dear Friends,

The new school year has been underway for a month, and I finally have a moment to breathe and give you an update. Things are looking very different this year than last. First, we have two new additions to the staff: Stefanie Beals (who was a junior missionary here three years ago) and Casey MacArthur. Stefanie has taken over the kindergarten class, and Casey is helping in all four classrooms. Second, we have some changes in our student body. The Deaf family from Hormigueros (including Naiska and Zumaya) has decided not to join us for another year. Their presence is missed both inside the classroom and out. In their place, we have two new students: a two-and-a-half-year-old hearing sister of one of our students and a five year-old cousin of another (her hearing levels have yet to be professionally assessed). So that brings us back to ten students. We are beginning to see how God wants to use the extra hands that He has given us this year.

For me, the biggest change so far is our new class schedule. Last year, I mainly taught the high-school class, but this year I've got a little bit of everyone. I teach all the levels of math and Social Studies. Then I have the older kids for vocabulary and Spanish class. And at the end of the day I have the little boys for devotions. This new way of teaching has been a major stressor on my life this past month. I have gotten so used to teaching teenagers (which I have truly enjoyed), that I have forgotten how to teach the little ones. Also the constant changing of classes takes the peace and consistency out of the day. I didn't think it was possible for me to work any harder or spend more weekend hours in my classroom than I have for the past two years, but I was wrong! Anyone who reads my blog knows I've been a little grumpy at times, but I'm starting to get the hang of it and almost beginning to enjoy it. Just when I was getting a little bit comfortable in my role here, God has stretched me some more!



Please pray for:

- **Judy More's visa situation:** She should have an answer by Christmas. Pray for her peace of mind while she waits.
- **Current Students:** Most of our children have really tough home lives. Pray for spiritual protection.
- **Future students:** We finally have the staff. Who will God bring?
- **Health and rest for the staff:** Our responsibilities extend way beyond school hours, so pray that we have time to maintain our physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support!

Love in Christ,
Elizabeth Emma

For more frequent updates, pictures, and videos, read my blog at <http://esdpuertorico.blogspot.com/>.