

Judy's Jottings

JUDY MORE



WORKING IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN PUERTO RICO

JANUARY 2009

Dear family and Friends

It was the end of November when I last wrote to you. I don't know where the time has gone to.

Let me begin with the school Christmas break up. We had a wonderful day. The church that Jen attends brought us a wonderful lunch and gifts for students and staff. The lunch was shared with the student's families and friends. The students performed a drama of the Christmas story for the people attending and signed some songs. We had a hand bell competition between staff and students. We both played Carol of the Bells and everyone voted. It was declared a draw, but I think the students were a little better on the day. Edgar stole the show when it came to the signed singing. He signed in such a cute way.

Another blessing at Christmas was a shipment of 12 boxes of non-perishable food from the States. This has meant we have a lot of food for the school lunches and we were also able to take parcels of food to two of our families who are struggling to put enough food on the table. We also took Christmas presents for the children in these families. Praise God for the people who sent the food, so we could bless these families.

We celebrated Christmas on Christmas Eve, with a family of four from Betsy's home church and a deaf woman and her daughter, who are staying at the school at present. We had a traditional turkey dinner and I made pavlova and pumpkin pie for dessert. That evening we went to a candle lit service. Christmas Day we went into San Juan and explored one of the forts and then Betsy and I got dropped off at the airport that evening

for our flight to the Dominican Republic. We had a lovely hotel and the next day we enjoyed sitting around the pool reading and sleeping. That evening we had a wonderful meal at our hotel and got up bright and early the next morning for our return flight. I came through the passport check and the man told me I wouldn't be able to stay as I had the wrong visa, however he took my photo and finger prints and sent me through to immigration who confirmed what the man had told me. He said the visa I have will allow me to stay in PR for 5 months of the year and the remaining months have to be spent in NZ. I told him that I had been told in NZ that I only had to leave the country for a minimum of seven hours and then I could get back in. His reply to this was that it looked like I was trying to establish residency, but he would give me until the end of May and then I would have to return to NZ and explore other visas. We have begun exploring already and have not had much joy to date, but I am praising God that I have the extra time here. I know He is in control and if He wants me back here it will happen.

New Year was very loud here with locals celebrating with fireworks and taking mufflers off the cars and driving around that way. There were 120 people treated for gun shot injuries, as the custom is to fire shots into the air to celebrate!

School has begun again and the children have settled back into routines again well. Edgar continues to delight us with his progress. He is adding to his sign language every day.

Right now many of the students have coughs and colds, so please pray that these don't spread among the rest of us.

Today I went to bed with a migraine. By after lunch I was feeling better, so returned to class and one of our boys looked at me and asked if I was better and then said God had healed me. Praise God for that understanding. He is one of our students that we really worry about because at 8 years of age he understands very little.

I was working with the older students the other day, to cover for Betsy who had some business to attend to, and one of the boys showed me his diary work. I asked him where the subject was in his sentences. (This is something we have been working on with him for some time now) He looked at me and said he wasn't worried and if his English was bad he didn't care. One of the other boys looked at me and said just ignore him. If he doesn't want you to help him improve I certainly do so come and help me.

Have I given you the impression that I appreciate you for your part in God sending me here? I hope so, because of your support a difference is being made in each of these precious children.

I pray that each one of you will have a very special 2009 and you will grow closer to our Lord and Saviour every day.

Love and blessings
Judy

Items for Prayer and Praise:

Praise God for:

- Food packages that helped us support our families
- A further six months in PR
- Edgar being in school and making really good progress with his sign language
- Health and daily strength
- The work teams that come to do maintenance of the property and equipment.

Pray for:

- Health of staff and students
- Wisdom as we teach the children
- The students to have a deeper understanding of God
- Wisdom for Betsy as she leads the school
- The many visitors that will come to the school over February, March and April.
- Meaningful conversations with the students
- The visa situation. That God would help us to contact the right people and to get accurate information