

# Judy's Jottings

JUDY MORE



## **WORKING IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN PUERTO RICO**

June 2010

Dear Family and Friends

How quiet it seems around the school at the moment. We are closed for summer holidays. However, on Sunday night a group of 30 mainly teenagers arrive. They will be doing some work around the school and some of them will be running a Bible vacation program for a local church. The peace will be gone, but a lot of work will be achieved.

At the end of May my friend Jenn arrived to stay with me for three weeks. We spent the first week exploring local points of interest. We went on a tour of a lighthouse, which was very interesting. The area surrounding the lighthouse is a mangrove swamp.

The second week we went to the northwest part of the island to stay in a retreat place there for a couple of days. The end of the trip was interesting because on the way home the car broke down. It was a real blessing that it happened outside a garage and that there were several people there who spoke English. They couldn't fix the car, so organized a tow truck for us and so we had a very good view as we bounced around inside the cab of the truck. The driver even gave me a Spanish lesson as we drove along.

The next week we went to Ponce, the second largest city on the island. I was impressed with the layout of the city and how they were happy to have tourists there. Ponce's city colours are red and black and they even have an area of houses that are painted red and black. Jenn and I felt quite at home! The highlight of the Ponce visit for me was going up the hill to visit the large cross that looks over the city. Once you get there you can go up in an elevator that looks out over the city. Spectacular views. When you step out of the lift you are inside the vertical bar of the cross and can walk across it. There was something quite spiritual about walking inside the cross. The cross was originally a simple wooden one similar to the one in the photo below. It was used to tell the city which ships were coming into port. They would fly the flag of the country the ship was from. The merchants would know when their stock was arriving. If it was an unknown ship they would fly a white flag and this would let security know they had to go and check that the ship wasn't coming to attack.

While at Ponce we took the opportunity to visit Adriana, an ex-pupil, who is now a helper around the school. She was pleased to see us and we enjoyed a lovely Puerto Rican meal for lunch. We then had a swim in their pool and headed home. An uneventful trip, as far as the car went.

Yesterday we had some of the kids over to meet the group that is working here. They helped them with some of the work. It was good to catch up with those who could come and find out how their holidays were going. Next week we hope to get the older kids and take them to the beach with the group, so they can have a swim together.

On the family front there is some exciting news. My son Jason and his partner are expecting a baby in January, so that will be grandchild number three. Elijah turned one in May. How quickly that year went by. Aaron, Sarah and Elijah are coming to visit in December and they will be bringing my other grandson Clayton with them. I have begun the countdown! Clayton turned 15 this month and is looking so grown up.

With school closed my time has been spent in getting things ready for the new school year, some office work, gardening and anything else that comes along. It is very hot. Most days are around 32-34 degrees and the humidity is around 85- 90%, so it actually feels much hotter. By the end of the day I feel very drained.

One night proved to be eventful. I had just got off to sleep when the phone rang. It was a student who couldn't sleep so thought he would phone Jen and when she didn't answer her phone he called the school phone, which I answered in case it was an emergency call for our visitors. The student wanted me to go and wake Jen so he could talk to her, but I assured him I would not do that and that Jen would phone in the morning. I was just drifting back to sleep when a thunder storm started. The dogs sleeping outside on the porch were scared, so I brought them into the house. Lily was not happy with that though. She wanted in bed with me. First time she climbed onto my pillow and lay there half covering my head. That didn't last for long. She was back on the floor very quickly. Next thing she had jumped up again and was lying across my stomach. I returned her to the floor again and spoke very firmly to her and she stayed on the floor for the remainder of the night. By this time I was wide awake. Finally went off to sleep around 4am. Next day was a bit of a struggle.

The biggest thing happening here at the moment is that the property, which we rent, is going to be put on the market. The owner thinks it should be worth about \$500,000. We are praying for guidance as we wait to see what God is going to do. We have three choices to consider:

- Purchase this property
- Purchase an alternative property
- Rent an alternative property.

Initially the price came as a bit of a shock. We didn't think it would worth that much. Having said that it would only take 500 people with \$1000 and we would have the required money. The appraisal is yet to be done and so we are praying that some of the negative aspects of the property may mean that it comes in a bit cheaper. It is also not a good time to be buying property, so that may also work in our favour.

Please give thanks for:

- Safety as Jenn and I traveled
- Times of refreshment
- The work team that has got so much done for us

Please lift up before the throne:

- The work team that will come in August to run a Bible Vacation programme with our students
- Elizabeth Emma a new teacher who is arriving on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Pray for her as she settles into community living, adapts to the weather, learns American Sign Language and adapts to living without family and friends close by
- For energy to cope with the heat
- Wisdom about the school – do we purchase or relocate else where
- For the people who have contacted the school about the possibility of their children coming for the new school year
- For Kristian that he would really understand how to live his life for Christ

Thank you again for your faithful support. It is very much appreciated.

Love  
Judy

Just for the Cantabrians that will read this here is a photo of the red and black houses of Ponce. Come on

Canterbury. Wouldn't some of the older houses around AMI stadium look good painted in red and black?



The cross of Ponce.