

Judy's Jottings

JUDY MORE



WORKING IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN PUERTO RICO

March 2010

Dear family and friends

The month seems to have flown by. It has had its challenges. The biggest one is the new 13 year old girl we have. Selena comes from a family where she is the third generation that have all been deaf. She has three deaf sisters and a deaf brother. Selena and her siblings are all in foster care. She is living with a family who live within travelling distance of the school, and as they are willing to transport her we have accepted her into the school. She is a classic case of mainstreaming that has gone very wrong. At 13 she can barely communicate. She has some home signs, that have been developed within the family, but not much else. She can not read or write. Along with this she has been caught stealing and also lying. Understandably she has been rather anxious about being in a new home, and a new school. Added to that we have had a work team here, so more new faces and people to meet and relate to. Betsy has been using a very early reading series with her and she is quickly picking up words. She has learnt the names and signs for the kids and staff around the school. When you see her quickly learning you can't help but feel angry that she has been let down by the system for all these years.

We have had a work team for Canada here, who have completed a lot of work. They have sealed all the roofs, painted the chapel inside, and done work to tidy up the school grounds. All the staff have gleaming cars after their grooming efforts. On Thursday they went to a local church and painted the outside of it. These kids have been giving their testimonies during chapel time and have had some amazing stories of how God has brought them out of drugs, alcohol, pornography etc and into a new life with Him.

I am mostly working with Kristian these days. With Selena arriving we had to change the classes a bit. I still have the older kids for Bible and continue to lead chapel in the mornings.

Kristian is having a few struggles at home currently, so please pray that he will make Godly choices.

Yesterday we had some teacher professional development. It was lead by two women from the USA. They helped us explore an online programme that helps to support deaf adults make decisions about going to college or preparing for the work force. Much of it is taught through games. There are some good resources for teaching English as well. It was an enjoyable and productive day.

On Monday there is no school as we commemorate the end of slavery.

On Friday Betsy, Jen and I fly to Baltimore and then are being picked up and taken to Hanover to stay for a week at Betsy's sending church. This will be a welcome break away from the heat.

After that there is only about eight weeks of school until the school year ends and we break for the summer. I will stay here over the summer vacation. My friend Jenn Sands is coming to visit for three weeks in June and we hope to spend some time exploring the island together.

Thanks again for all your support. I appreciate each and every one of you that God has brought into my life.

May you experience joy, peace and hope as you celebrate Easter,

Judy More



Skipping exercise



In Fajardo waiting for the Special Olympics activity.

We were to sign songs, but that never happened.