



April 10, 1008

Hi Everybody!

Wow! When Sulmi and I planted some cantalope and watermelon today we saw there are limes on the lime tree!!! That's exciting to see it produce fruit. I planted it just after I arrived here in Belize. It was only about 5 inches tall then. We've watered it and watched it grow big and bushy, but up until now there was no fruit. I thought about Jesus' Deaf Church. It's a little bit like the lime tree. Most of the older people (twenty-somethings) have been coming to JDC for the opportunity to chat with deaf friends. They weren't coming

to praise God or to learn how to be disciples. They sometimes slouched through the sermon and checked the clock. But it's changing. We're entering a new "stage" in our life as a church. We went through a few rough months around Christmas and right after where they were fighting a lot with each other. Some stayed away from church. But now they are coming back and coming back for the right reasons. I think that they are beginning to show some fruit, and they seem more interested in learning. When I saw the limes I thought: Growing limes is a long patient process but eventually the tree will have so many I will be able to share with all the neighbors. Planting seeds of hope and watching them mature is also a long patient process. It's rewarding when God gives a glimpse of the fruit of that labor. Please pray for three people who responded to an altar call and want to change their lives. Pray they can resist the temptations all around them.



In the picture you see Yelitza signing a song. She is becoming a Believer and faithfully attends church and Girl's Night with her 2 year old daughter. Pray that her husband who is hearing, will come too.



Yep, we now have a dog. It wasn't my plan...but sometimes you don't have control over all the details. In January every day I would come home to find a skinny white dog lying in front of my gate. She was so thin that her whole rib cage was evident and her hip bones jutted out. She also was covered with mange and fleas and ticks. I watched her barely able to lift her head and get up to move when I put the car in the driveway. Each day I thought she might not be alive when

I got home at night. I wondered if there is a point that malnutrition makes a dog beyond hope. There are so many dogs that are “lost causes” here in Belize and I never felt called to “save” them. But I couldn’t look away from this one. She was blocking my gate! So after a week, I fed her. She got stronger quickly. We took her to the vet and got shots for worms and mange and washed her for fleas. She has grown back a nice coat of hair. Sulmi named her Flaquita (skinny little girl). She comes when she’s called, is very loving, never bites and stays close to home. The only problem is she likes to dig. She dug up the dirt around the plants in my garden. Just saying “no” was not stopping that behavior. Last week I bought a load of sand and made a sand box for her. Now she digs the sand instead of the garden. The girls love her. In the picture Kristel and Sulmi are playing with Flaquita in her sand box.



School is great! I took this picture of some of the kids with kites because I wanted to show that they are learning to be creative. In the past when we made crafts they all wanted to make theirs exactly like the model. I’ve been encouraging them to try to be different...creative. Sulmi’s is a heart, Misael’s has ears, Edgars (not pictured) is geometric design, Kristel’s is an owl. They are learning to think outside of the box ☺ Thank God for Angelica who is such a tremendous help. Pray for wisdom for me in dealing with behavioral issues. Pray that the children learn and

choose to be kind to each other and encourage each other.

Hilary, the interpreting intern from Goshen College who lives with us, is from Kansas. We all watched the last of the NCAA tournament when Kansas was in the Final Four. Hilary and the girls were cheering loudly. Hilary got the idea to give the girls “pom poms” (bath scrubbies) to use to cheer. They were cute doing cheers for the game. Hilary has helped in my class and interpreted some for us at school. She has also worked with some deaf children in Corozal District. It’s been good for them to have an ASL model since their teacher is just learning to sign.



Thank you to everyone who prays for us. May God fill you with his grace and peace.

Love,
Nancy

