

Dear Friends and Family,

It has actually been almost a month since we have corresponded with you all. It takes about 3 weeks for our "snail mail" newsletters to go from their creation on our computer to your mailbox. If you have not received a hard copy of our Newsletter and would like one, send us an email and let us know.

This morning I delivered one hundred cupcakes to the church for their chicken BBQ fundraiser. Most homes in the village do not have ovens so a home baked item is a special treat. I heard they sold "like hotcakes."

Last weekend we traveled to the center of the country in order to get Elizabeth to the orthodontist and then meet up with Bob Eberly from Greencastle, PA. His ministry has built a beautiful orphanage south of Belmopan. The government of Belize has many homeless and needy children waiting to move into the facility which should open at the first of the year. Bob shipped a container from Greencastle and in it he brought several of our personal boxes. With the back seat out of the Suburban we squeezed everything in. Many thanks to Bob and his generosity!

While down in the Belmopan area we stayed in the jungle at one of the many tourist spots. It is called Banana Bank Lodge and Equestrian Center. It was a fascinating place. The owners, John and Carolyn Carr bought the property and moved there 30 years ago. He is a Montana cowboy and she is a fabulous artist. They have very Friendly pet monkeys (as you can see from the attached photo), exotic birds and a jaguar. They were very hospitable with great home cooking! They gave us a great missionary discount too.

Our ministries here have been keeping us busy. David is in the clinic and is also taking leadership in the performing arts club at Cornerstone High School. We are working on some Christmas music with Melody Chimes and choir. These students have never sung parts so in a lot of ways we are starting from ground zero. We are particularly excited about this ministry opportunity as many of these kids are not believers and as we build relationship over the coming years, God may bring many into the Kingdom!

Two Sundays ago our family was invited to perform a song on Melody Chimes at church. It was well received. Matthew even played two of the notes. We hope that introduction will encourage others to join us next time. We have spoken with the church leaders about our desire to complement their ministry in any way they see fit and so now we wait for them to invite us to participate. We believe in time they will invite us to do more in music ministry but we must wait patiently for God's timing in this and are being very careful not to "push" ourselves upon them. We sense God is doing something among these people within the church that He loves and so we have hope!

I (Jane) am now doing music for the primary kids at Matthew's campus on Tuesday afternoons and at Hannah and Elizabeth's campus on Thursday afternoons. I have been working with the 7th and 8th grade class on Melody Chimes. Since they attend a Presbyterian school AND this is the month we celebrate the Reformation I am teaching the kids to play A Mighty Fortress is our God on the Chimes. We hope to perform it for parents in two weeks. I am really enjoying my Wednesday high school music and art classes.

Our biggest news is that we have taken the plunge and adopted a village pup. She is almost six weeks old and her name is Maya (appropriate we thought). We made sure that we will be able to bring her back to the states when that day comes. We have decided it is a lot less stressful to raise a puppy on tile floors than on carpet.

We are grateful for your prayers for our health and ministry here. We are finding many practical ways to speak Christ's love into the lives of our new friends here.

God Bless you all,

The Arends Family from Belize

Dave, Jane, Hannah, Bessie and Matty