

“Across the Lands”

(words by Keith Getty)

You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began,
Every star and every planet have been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of Your voice,
Let the skies declare your glory; Let the land and seas rejoice.

*You're the author of Creation. You're the Lord of every land
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Yet You left the gaze of angels, come to seek and save the lost
And exchange the joy of heaven for the anguish of the cross
With a prayer you fed the hungry. With a word you calmed the sea
Yet how silently you suffered that the guilty may go free.

*You're the author of creation. You're the Lord of every man
And Your cry of love rings out across the land.*

With a shout You rose victorious, wrestling victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven, leading captives in Your wake
Now You stand before the Father interceding for Your own
From each tribe and tongue and nation you are leading sinners home.

*You're the author of creation. You're the Lord of every man
And Your cry of love rings out across the land.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please forgive the length of the song above, but I wanted to share the words with you. This was one of the songs we sang each morning in our devotions at the beginning of class last week. Being in another land with brothers and sisters in Christ, worshipping the one, true God, made this a precious time. Dale McLane, administrator of Trinity Christian School in Philadelphia, led the devotions each morning during the 3 weeks of classes at the Presbyterian Teacher Education College (PTEC). The McLane's spent a year here serving as missionaries with MTW teaching at Cornerstone Presbyterian High School. Getting to know them has been a blessing.

So much has happened since I wrote you last. Our family reunion was wonderful. My family has been such an encouragement to me and I am so thankful for them. My life group and friends helped me get my belongings packed up and either into storage or shipped to Belize. I'm so blessed to be in an awesome life group. Chelsea Ebert and I made it safely to Belize. We survived a whirlwind week of preparation. The Language Arts class went well. God is merciful and in the midst of being so tired, I did not get sick (my usual pattern). Thank you for your prayers for good health and safety.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers for the class and for Chelsea (who traveled here to help). She made awesome visuals and was a huge help to the students as they did their research for their Literature Focused Units. She came here to serve, and did it with a joyful heart, anticipating our every need.

Thursday of the week of class, the uncle of one of students at PTEC went home to be with the Lord. It was awesome seeing God's church come together to minister to this family in the absence of their pastor. What a comfort it was to that pastor, as he returned to see and hear how God had answered his prayer.

Tuesday we were to paint the living room and hallway of Carla Steven's (MTW missionary) home. What a blessing to see Belizean neighbors and friends come out to tackle this job (Carla's ceilings are vaulted). The Belizeans have taken her under their wing and watch out for her. I'm already beginning to see them doing the same thing for me. I have two younger friends I'm getting to know, Ryan and Reeshel. They already love the Lord, but know many who do not.

I'm still learning my way around and where the best places are for getting different things. The grocery stores here are much smaller than some of the convenience stores in the US, but we are able to get more than you could two years ago. Carla showed me a big 'supermarket' in Belize City (2 hours away). When I went in, I was like a kid going to Wal-Mart for the first time. It's only about a third the size but wonderful.

Prayer Requests

- Complete the grading for the Language Arts Class
- Organize my schedule for the remaining 3 weeks in Belize
- Begin my study of the Spanish language
- Adjustment to life in Costa Rica (go there the end of Aug.)
- Quiet Time with the Lord
- Nurture friendships with team members, Ticas (Costa Ricans) and Belizeans

I am still getting all my emails entered into my gmail address book. The internet seems to be intermittent these days, so bear with me as I set this up. Sometimes I can only get 4 or 5 entered before we are off line again. I'm beginning to see a bit of the frustration of living in another country, dealing with life and friends back home, and things keeping you from being able to do so. Things truly take longer to happen here. I have grown too comfortable with how quickly things happen in the United States. Please understand that if you haven't heard from me in a while, that isn't because I haven't tried.

In between the first draft of this letter and now, my first shipment of boxes arrived. There were many praying that the day would go smoothly and God would give those at customs and at the port, generous hearts. It typically takes a day to get your things out of port and lots of money for brokers and taxes. To make a long story short, we were done in three hours, we didn't need a broker (\$150BZ) and it cost me \$68.85BZ (the ratio is 2BZ for 1US). So it was less than \$35.00US! God constantly is going before me, ever showing me how much He loves and cares for me. Thank you to those who were praying for this day.

God Bless,

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