

Jean Giles

Prayer Letter

July 11, 2008

Dear Friends and Family,

God is busy here in Belize! He keeps showing me over and over again He is all sovereign, all sufficient, all knowing, all watchful AND He is my protector.

Living in another country yields many challenges, some easier than others. When God allowed the Belize Presbyterian Teacher Education College (PTEC) to close, He opened up another door. Carla Stevens and I have spent most of June giving a one-on-one teacher and administrator survey, which we are now using to create a 4-year workshop plan for the teachers in the Presbyterian Management. Workshops began this week. Dale and Linda McLane have returned to help us with these workshops for the month of July. Dale and Carla are teaching the *Shepherding a Child's Heart* in the mornings and *First Days of School* in the afternoons. Next week will be *Teaching Redemptively: Building a Biblical Foundation for Teaching* and *Worldview: Putting on Biblical Glasses*. I'm spending these two weeks preparing for my workshop *Language Arts Make-it, Take-it*, a workshop where lower grammar teachers will be learning the process of developing a literature based unit from conception to lesson plans. We will then make the props needed to teach that unit. Carla will also be teaching *Understanding by Design Unit Planning for Upper Division and High School* during the same week. The last week of July Carla and I will be teaching *Understanding by Design Literature Based Unit Planning for Lower and Middle Division*. As you can see it is a full month.

It has been exciting to see God open doors. I have been asked to assist with a government workshop for Pre-School teachers the second week of August, by creating a variety of visuals and then demonstrate numerous ways for teachers to use those visuals. What an opportunity to show God's love to teachers outside of the Presbyterian Management, as well as, helping teachers to develop more effective teaching strategies.

One of the more frustrating challenges for me, is my lack of technological know-how combined with the inconsistency of the internet here. Consequently weeks can go by without things working properly. Know when you do not hear from me for long periods of time, it is most likely a combination of technical issues that hinder me being able to communicate with you.

My most recent challenge was last week. After attending an excellent workshop in California for a week (lots of sitting) and a 5 _ hour flight delay Sunday in Dallas, my back had all it could take. Monday, while attempting to put a sheet on the bed, my back went out. That pretty much put me down for the next few days. Then, Wed. morning at 3:00 AM a man broke into my house, through my bedroom window. Noises woke me up, but I attributed them to the wind. It wasn't until I noticed the screen ajar and some window panes missing, that I realized something was not right. When I turned around I found the man curled up on the floor by my bed. I screamed and he jumped up, grabbed a bag off my dresser, and then ran for the window. I shoved him (don't know why I did that) and he shoved me back, and dove out the window (second story) hands and head first, carrying the bag. Not only was God watching over me, BUT he was watching over him as well. He managed to land, get up, and get away. I am so thankful for God's protection. It could have been so much worse.

Psalm 91:4-7 says *"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near*

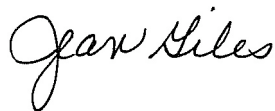
you.” Then verses 14-16 says, “*Because He loves me,*” says the Lord, “*I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.*” I am so thankful for God’s word and the comfort and peace it brings through the Holy Spirit. I can’t say, I am fearless at night, but I can say that when the fear begins to grip me, He is faithful to show me Himself and give me peace. Each night has been better than the night before.

One of the blessings from this past week has been meeting more of my neighbors. God has allowed me to meet five women and the neighbor next door, Mr. Chavez, the Mexican Consul for Belize. He was willing to get involved the night of the break-in. He called the Police, and then went out to find where the screaming had come from. I am so thankful to him and to my team members who got here just as the police came. God is good ALL the time! ALL the time, God is good!

Prayer Requests:

- For God to continue to bring me through the effects of the past week with a bolder, more confident trust in Him. Please also pray for my family who deals with this from afar.
- Continued strengthening of my back.
- Wisdom and discernment as we plan and implement the workshops before us. Also for physical stamina.
- That God would open the hearts and minds of the teachers and give them understanding and excitement for what they are learning in these workshops
- Finances – The expenses have been greater than anticipated. Just as things are going up in the United States they are going up here in Belize as well. I have also lost two supporters for circumstances beyond their control. Would you pray that God would bring others to join with me in ministry?
- For safe travel and work experiences for the teams coming to Belize this summer. These teams are a blessing to us. I love hearing how God has brought them here and the things God teaches them while they are here. A group from my home church will be here July 19 – 26. I can’t wait to fellowship with them.

In His Hands,



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