Arensman Archives - March 2008

Dear Friends,

For two months we have not written to you because we have been through a period of intensely seeking God, asking Him to confirm His call to us. At the beginning of February, we began asking Him for clear, unmistakable direction and wisdom as we are facing the deadline for making decisions to head to Belize. In just a few weeks, He has moved in remarkable ways and has convinced us of His plan to send us. Two weeks ago we prayed, asking Him to bring in support that would be clearly from Him. In two weeks time, we have picked up $800/month in new support bringing our deficit down to only $1200/month! That amount of new support in such a short period of time is amazing! He has also confirmed the fact that we will not be here for the next school year by closing doors to Sarah for her teaching position here in N.C. Several conversations with our teammates in Belize have given us focus and clarity and have led to a renewal of our passion for Latin America and the country of Belize.

In two weeks, we will have to make the "final" decision to enroll in our last two pre-field training events. The first is a weeklong class for us (without the kids) which takes place in May in North Carolina. The second is a full month in New York City. ALL of us (yes, all eight!) will spend the month of July in New York attending classes in language acquisition, cultural sensitivity, cross-cultural ministry, and adapting to the changes of moving to a third-world country. Our plans are to finish in New York, return to North Carolina for a few days, then be off to Belize by the beginning of August. In order for us to make the decisions to move ahead, we need to be very close, if not completely finished raising our support. If you are currently supporting us, we thank you! Without you we would not have gotten this far. If not, would you please consider being a part of God's answer to our prayers? We are SO close to our goal – your help can push us through to the finish line! With so little left to go, every dollar counts BIG! Please pray with us that God would continue to open the floodgates of provision and that we would be able to move ahead through this final step of preparation.

In addition to working in the area of financial preparation, God is actively at work in our personal walk with Him. Scott and I have been walking through some difficult issues in our marriage and with our families. Although it is not pleasant, we know that it is a part of our preparation and further sanctification. Instead of running away from it (which is what everything in our flesh cries out for) we are submitting to it day by day and asking God to do the work that is necessary. Working out our salvation is a messy business! I can't help but think that the things we are going

through now are just light and momentary afflictions and that what we may face in Belize could be so much more difficult.

These last few months seem like a strange suspension between two worlds. On the one hand, we still have our normal, everyday jobs and responsibilities. The days speed by and it is all we can do just to stay on top of those standard duties. There is no time left for the extra task of raising support, making plans, and thinking through all that we must do in advance. Yet, our hearts are burning to be in a place that we barely know. In our whole lives, we have spent a total of two weeks in Belize, but we cannot stop thinking of it. Our desire to invest our lives in the people of Belize is no less than supernatural. God has placed this longing in our hearts and He keeps drawing us ever closer, renewing the fire and strengthening our resolve. It is an exciting place to be!

Thank you ALL for your words of encouragement, your friendship, your prayers and your financial support. The countdown is on! We cannot wait!

Love in Christ,

Scott and Sarah Arensman

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