



the bjorgens in belize

THE SPYGLASS

DECEMBER 1, 2009

One Saturday morning about eight months ago, John and I went to a local Arizona mountain to go hiking. Evangeline was only seven weeks old and I was itching to do something active. This was the first form of exercise I had in a while. We hiked up the steep mountain and back, which was hard because I was out of shape, but I felt good at the time. However, the next day I was so sore it was difficult to walk. And of course I was sore! I had no form of exercise in months and I tried to hike up a mountain. To avoid being so sore, I would have had to train and prepare for such a hike. Because I hadn't prepared, I ended up feeling the consequences. This experience relates to our preparation for going to Belize.

If John and I had gone to the mission field without any training or preparation I believe we would have found ourselves spiritually sore. It would have been tough in the beginning but we would have really felt the effects in the following months or years. These past two years of hard work trying to raise our support has not been in vain. It has been a necessary preparation process. We praise the Lord that our mission board not only trains us but requires us to be trained and stretched and challenged beyond our thinking. There will still be some sore moments, but now, our hearts are ready, our minds are aware, and the Spirit of the Lord is with us. We are prepared for the journey.

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COMMENCEMENT IS HERE

At my high school graduation ceremony, the speaker made it a point to mention that a “commencement” is not the end of something, but the beginning or start of something. As we near the end of our time in the States, I feel like we’re preparing to commence on a new phase of life that is unlike any we’ve ever known. When I consider our current situation, I’m taken back to some of the same feelings and emotions that I encountered at graduation. I remember feeling completely ignorant and unprepared to face the months ahead, despite having just completed twelve years of education. It wasn’t that my education was poor – it was more than adequate. It was that I was about to face life on my own, in a new place where I knew absolutely no one. A place where, if I made the wrong choices, I’d have to live with the long term consequences.



The safety net was gone. Welcome to real life.

So by the time you read this, we’ll have completed our required training, and will have formed the partnerships necessary to enable us to concentrate full-time on our ministry while in Belize. We’re ready to graduate. Yet we face the coming months with a wide range of emotions: from excitement, awe, and impatience to trepidation, insecurity, and care. There’s a sense of great accomplishment, but a knowledge that we’ve tasted but a morsel of the real challenges and difficulties that face us. There’s a sweet taste of the Lord’s faithfulness, and a yearning to feast on the ever-increasing satisfaction that we find in Him. We are about to face life in a new place where we know hardly anyone, where each point of reference that defines normal is missing. A place where, if we make the wrong choices, we’ll have to live with the long term consequences. Our only safety net is God. Welcome to new life.

As I was considering the parallels, I thought of yet another: graduation gifts. The tradition of recognizing a new beginning with an outpouring of financial assistance to aid the graduate on their new journey. In similar fashion, we find ourselves



OUR MISSIONS TRAINING CLASS

in the position to make one last appeal. The one thing that prevents us from departing for Belize to engage in our ministry immediately is our one-time startup costs. This consists of a few thousand dollars that are required for relocating and setting up a home and a ministry in Belize. While we recognize the sacrificial

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fashion in which many of you have given, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a one-time gift that will push us over this last hump. If you would like to donate, please [click here](#).

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