



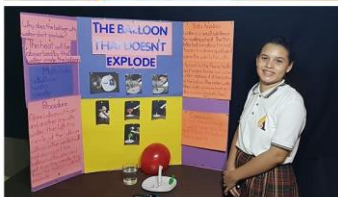
*Roatan Campbell
Connection
August 2021*



Happy Summer! This weekend we were to be settling into a month's stay in Roatan before the fall harvest. This weekend we were to be greeting old friends, meeting new, and cleaning the accumulation of a year and a half of dust and gecko guck off our floors, car, and every surface. We might even have squeezed in a visit to the ocean. But – not to be. We have scoured the internet for opportunities to fly out to Roatan with the same result – it is just too complicated and expensive! With the requirements of covid tests, (despite being fully vaccinated), ticket prices double the normal price and flights requiring sleepovers in the US, it felt like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. Nothing felt right. So, we are disappointed but are learning to be content knowing that when the time is right the doors will open.

Encouragement has been what has kept all of us feeling content with the limitations we have all had. We have all needed to know that we are being noticed and that what we do is of value. Encouragement is what we can provide from here, and it is what we are receiving from there. While our in-person visits in Roatan are not going to happen, and Larry's masterful hammering skills are not being utilized, we do have so many opportunities to be light and salt online.

Elias is one of Larry's social media buddies. We have known Elias since the first day we landed in Roatan as he was an eager translator. He helps us with some of our business needs when we can't be on the island. Elias is very enterprising but seems to need to talk all his ideas out and Larry is a good listener making suggestions that help him. There are times Elias needs reminders to consider the needs of his family and include his wife in his decisions. This relationship is mutually encouraging.



Mason and Jeanie are dedicated workers at Son Rise church where Mason teaches and maintains the church and inn property. He also helps anchor Pastor Dino. Jeanie assists with pastoral needs. Alongside these responsibilities, they provide guidance for their three daughters and their education. Allison, Grace, and Hannah are three of our sponsored students. With lessons at the school only once a week, Jeanie monitors and assists her daughters' online learning, so they receive a full education experience. These girls do not just complete their assignments to get the job done! With their mom's determination, lessons are enhanced. We receive frequent pictures and videos of the girls at work or presenting their projects. Mason and Jeanie are determined that although we are away, we can see how well the girls are learning. While Mason and Jeanie are encouraged by our responses, we feel connected to the girls knowing that what has been provided for them from their sponsors has not been lost.

Hannah and Grace with school projects.

A few months ago, Chris and Laura's baby boy was born. Chris and family, including 3 sons and the little girl they are fostering, continue to live on the mainland, where they work at the rehab center. Chris sent a message to Larry that they were being given two weeks of vacation. Since they were anxious to introduce their new little one to family on Roatan, we felt we wanted to honour the work both Chris and Laura have been involved with and sent funds so they can go to Roatan for their vacation. Money can be a great encouragement!

In Honduras, school kids celebrate an historic hero – Señor Lempira – with various cultural events. Keliani, one of our students, was invited by her school to perform a traditional dance, with a male partner (Keliani will soon be 15, so that was good!). She was very excited, but she needed to wear a traditional Honduran costume. Having had three daughters, we know how important these activities are to a teen girl. Funds were provided. Keliani's grandma found the needed fabric on the mainland. Keliani's mom arranged to have the dress made. And Keliani proudly danced at the school Lempira Day celebration. It was her day!

In turn, our hearts were blessed when Greicy was invited to a baby shower for a co-worker. She confided "that was the first time I went to a place that it was all English." (i.e.. Everyone spoke English). Greicy was able to fit in because of the time we have spent speaking English with her. That was so confirming for us!

We have hot off the press good news and confirmation! We just received news that Oscar has been accepted for a coveted job at a bank. This will make use of his bilingual education – and of course his charming personality. He has been employed since graduation as a waiter in a restaurant and most recently as a cashier at a duty-free store. We are so excited for him and for those who have supported him.

We have also been supported and encouraged in so many ways by the people we exchange eye-smiles with in church and our family (full smiles) during these months. It has been a time of heart filling.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ~1Thessalonians 5:11

Like Canada, the people in Roatan are seeing an increase in cases of Covid again. There are vaccines available. People in health care and the tourist industry were first to receive vaccinations with many fully vaccinated. Now those aged 20 and over can present themselves at locations where there are to be vaccinations and if they go soon enough in the day, they receive their vaccination. Second vaccination dates are assigned and are just beginning. Some people report that they have had covid twice. At this time, I am checking in on Sandra who tells me this second covid is worse for her.

Public schools remain closed. Assignments are delivered to be completed but there are no lessons and no feedback. We shake our heads. Poverty – lack of opportunities and choices. We see a decade of positive change – gone!

We ask for prayers. Please pray:

- that work is found and that workers receive fair payment for their efforts
- that prices for basic necessities do not continue to be overpriced
- that we bloom where we are planted, for now, and doors will be opened soon.



Let us know how you are blooming. ~ Larry and Susan Campbell

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*Above: Chris, Laura and little kids
Below: Keliani in traditional dress*

