

Day 7 Reflection

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The last nail has been driven.

The final hugs with sweet Michael have been shared.

Tears flowed from the ineluctable bonds with our Belizean brothers and sisters in Christ.

It's always easy to come here and difficult to leave.

Friday was a different experience. Instead of putting on my work shoes and eye protection this morning, I slipped on my Chacos and sunglasses. By 10 a.m. we were led from hotel to bus to boat to end up on beautiful Caye Caulker off the coast of Belize.

Our mission team has snorkled, lunched and shopped.

I sit here now, amidst the blowing fronds of the local palms, sipping on an orange Fanta – in a glass bottle, of course.

I find that I'm having to compartmentalize my reflections on the past week.

On one hand, I struggled to leave our friends at Port Loyola Baptist Church before their new Sunday School building was finished and before we'd had enough time with them. On the other hand, I'm really enjoying this warm, breezy day on the Caribbean coast. The people are friendly and the ocean views are spectacular.

I have to tell myself that it's just the way life is. We might be facing trials or have friends who have suffered great loss. We might be hurting inside or facing difficult decisions. The pain of life is always with us, alongside its unfathomable joys.

It's hard to hear this when you are young and waiting for that "thing" that's going to make you happy. We all want the magic solution that will bring us joy – whether it's money, beauty, or our soul mate.

One of the greatest lessons we can learn from our week in Belize is that we don't need a lot to make us happy. We shouldn't wait for everything to be perfect before we start living the lives God has given us.

Christ's love for us and our bonds with our church friends and family will sustain us through the toughest of times. We can always experience the joy Christ promises us by trusting Him and serving Him when he calls.

Here I am! Send me!