

# BEHIND the scenes

## AT THE LORD'S COMMAND

This summer, in one of the most uncertain times I have ever faced in my ten years of ministry, God used the book of Numbers to bolster my faith. My ministry funds were dangerously low, my time in Bolivia was possibly going to be cut short, and I was crying out for peace in the midst of my storm. Honestly, I was begging God just to tell me where I was supposed to be for this year. And Numbers 9:18 reminded me, very blatantly, that the Israelites stayed put until God said otherwise, and they didn't make camp until the LORD directed. I had my answer; I would stay put at Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center (SCCLC) until the LORD said otherwise, and I would not worry about when that would be. So, I walked in tears and prayer, and a determination to use the time God gave me here to the very best of my ability. I am PRAISING God for the time He's given me, the ways He's met my financial burdens, and the moments I have seen Him work in this first semester. Thank you for ALL of your prayers, emotional and financial support, and the encouragement you send my way. As I head back to the States in June 2014, let's plan to get together and have some amazing fellowship. Until then, let's rejoice together in God's timing and provision - both in our lives and through our lives.

*Emily*

## CLASS OF 2014 - A NEW BATCH OF SENIORS

I met many of these Seniors when they were in the 5th grade. In fact, I read to them during library time. So, imagine my joy at being able to help them through their Senior Year transition, teach them one more year in English and Theater, and most importantly, remind them how much God loves them and wants their love in return. Whether it is a normal day in the classroom, a Transition seminar at Senior Retreat, or a 14.5 hr movie-a-thon watching *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*, I love being with them. Would you please pray for the following requests with me?

1. That everyone in the Class of 2014 would have a deeper awareness of the goodness of God and a deeper trust in His wisdom.
2. That the Seniors would use these last 6 months to love each other deeply and sacrificially. Pray especially that the believers in the class would live out Christ's love in their relationships with the non-believers.
3. That these 16 young men and women would leave SCCLC a better, healthier school because they were in it. Pray that the Seniors would be the leaders they can be, through the power of Christ.
4. That the Seniors would grow in their love for Jesus and their devotion to Him, that these last months of High School would strengthen their faith.



DECEMBER 2013



*A Successful Suessical - Caleb graduated in May and is now studying Theatre in Los Angeles, CA.*



*Sr Retreat - Learning to leave well*



*Celebrating a windy Santa Cruz Day with two Seniors, Tasha and Karla*

## HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT - THE NEXT GENERATION

I LOVE being a counselor at our Retreats and Camps. The precious time I have to share life with my students outside of the classroom helps us know each other better and challenge each other more. I've counseled, led small groups, and helped with the worship team more times than I can count, but I had a unique privilege this retreat: One of my former students, who is now a teacher at SCCLC, was a leader with me! Katie Beth Wilcke was a 10th grader when I first came to SCCLC; she is now my coworker, fellow lover of youth, and friend. I love how God works and how He sends amazing surprises our way!



SCCLC Retreat 2013 - the Gang's all here!



Left pic - Katie Beth and I when she was a camper, many years ago.



Right pic - Katie Beth and I now as co-counselors, leading worship together!



Laughing with one of my Seniors, Naomi

## THE WORLD OF THEATRE

After such a complicated musical as *Seussical* last spring, I decided to take a simpler path this semester. We are partnering with the Choir Dept. to create a night of Christmas skits and songs entitled *A Hodge Podge of Christmas*. It should be a blast, especially since the whole of Act 1 is "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Our play dates are Dec. 6th and 7th - Check out the blog for pictures and stories: <http://behindthescenesblog.com>

For second semester, we are diving into *Arabian Nights*, and I am thrilled. Rumor has it that 15 of the 16 Seniors are planning on being involved, not to mention many other kids from 7th-11th grades. It will be a wild ride, but a worthy end to this crazy theatrical term!

## HOW ELSE CAN YOU PRAY?

I am so glad you asked! Along with those specific prayer requests I gave you for the Seniors, here are a few more needs that are close to my heart:

1. **The Juniors** are an amazing group of kids. Honestly, I can't believe how close I've gotten to them and how much I care about them after teaching them American Literature for only 4 months. Please pray that the Juniors will see authentic lovers of Jesus all around them. So many in that class have heard the truth for years but are unconvinced that they need Jesus. Pray for the believers in that class to be strong and courageous in their faith. Pray also for unity among the believers.

2. **English Teachers** are desperately needed for the SCCLC 2014-2015 school year. I'll be in the States for that whole school year and I am already praying for God to raise up a replacement for me and our other English teacher.

3. **My Upcoming HMA** (Homeland Ministry Assignment) will start in June 2014 and end (LORD willing) in July 2015. Pray that God will use my testimony to draw many into missions, through praying, giving, and going! Pray that my financial needs will be met, AND that I will be able to connect with all of you! Let's start planning to get together - you can call (317-489-3935) or email [emily.barlow@wgm.org](mailto:emily.barlow@wgm.org) to set a date!

*Remember, you can always donate online: please go to <https://www.wgm.org/barlow>*

**Emily Barlow**

317-821-1429

13820 N. Layton Mills Ct.

Camby, IN 46113

[emily.barlow@wgm.org](mailto:emily.barlow@wgm.org)

317-489-3935

Casilla 55

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

**World Gospel Mission**

P.O. Box 948

Marion, IN 46952

[www.wgm.org](http://www.wgm.org)