

Dear Pop,

How are you feeling? I really hope you are doing better. Has the doctor told you anything else? Please let me know because I am worried about you.

Right now I am in the interior again. I came in by boat which takes about 23 hours. Coming down the Patimá River is one of my most favorite things. It is hard to describe how beautiful it is.

It is so peaceful. I like to sit out on the deck and watch all the scenery. All the animals and birds, plus all the different kinds of tropical plants. The little Amerindian children run out to wave at the boat.

The boat is called the *Cudjor* - its ~~kind~~ one we have at the agricultural project.

I live in a very nice ^{wooden} ~~straw~~ cottage. Some of the cottages here are made out of *tuloc*. It is a kind of plant, sort of like palm leaves, but not really. The Amerindians go out in the bush & cut it down. They dry it out for a few days and then inter-mesh it on a ~~straw~~ pole frame. ^{It} It is absolutely waterproof & looks very nice. They are just as durable as the wooden ones.

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I do different things around here. I sort of help coordinate, but I also spend time in the medical clinic and in the school. Also I like to go out and work in the fields with the plants. One of the carpenters here is you showing me a few things. I love working with my hands. I can honestly say I have never been happier or healthier. There is something about this climate I guess. Also, being able to work outside without all the tension and pressure of a city. I don't think you realize it until you get away from it. I know you would love it here since I know how much you like working outside & stuff. Some of the things going here are that you would be interested in are: a ^{big} piggy where ~~there~~ we raised pigs. Also there are goats & cattle will be coming in soon. There are also about 10 ~~or~~ large chicken houses. I don't know if you have ever heard of ~~it~~ cassava which is a plant grown here. It is kind of like a potatoe. From it can be made into bread or fixed like any kind of potatoe. A syrup called cacarep, which is a popu-

... lar flavoring in the Caribbean
 can be made from it. It is
 sort of like soy sauce is to
 Chinese food. It looks like it, only
 thicker & the taste is not
 similar. The leafy part is used
 for animal feed. All these things
 here, processed in a large cassava
 mill. There are acres & acres of
 crops. I don't know all of them
 but some are edoes (also like yams),
 pineapples, bananas, corn, okra, coffee,
 breadfruit, different citrus and vegetables.
 The people here are working on
 developing new kinds of food. For
 example, there is a large bean
 called a cutlass bean. They
 found it has a very high protein
 content and tried different ways
 of using it. Anyway they came
 up with a way to fix it
 so it tastes just like sausage
 patties & even looks like it.
 Also it can be fixed into
 a meatloaf only we call it
 cutlass loaf. It is delicious.
 It is one of my favorite things
 & I wouldn't care if I never
 ate meat again if I had
 my cutlass patties. That is only
 one example of the things that
 have been developed here. The
 government is very impressed and
 has said this is the best

model of agriculture in the nation. Some of the other things that are here are a saw mill, carpentry shop, school, medical clinic, and other things which I'll tell you about next time. I guess I am really rambling on but I just want to share my enthusiasm with you for what is going on here. I know you would love it like I said. It is hard to describe all the beauty of the jungle and all that is going on at the project too.

Right before I came into the interior, I helped put together an exhibit for all the government officials and the Parliament. It took a large room and we had different tables like for education, agriculture, recreation, etc. We also had a long table where they could sample the new foods developed at the project with foods all native to Guyana. That was a real big hit! We had papaya fried pies, plantain chips and bean burgers, (which I also love), a new kind of breakfast cereal from plantain + lots of other stuff. (I think you can tell)

by now I kind of like the food here. (Ha Ha) I think I might even get fat if I keep this up. (I guess never before anyway back to the exhibit... (I guess you have figured one reason why I never become a writer is because I don't keep my thoughts organized on paper - I just scribble around all over the place. Like I was saying the exhibit was a big hit and they were very impressed. When

Visitors come into the project daily as it has become a sort of model, and is pretty unique. Today 63 teachers & educators came through. They liked the way the school is set up and intend to incorporate some of the same ideas in a school the government is opening up here nearby.

Yesterday the ambassador to the UN came with his wife. They brought a little boy from Venezuela who had suffered from malnutrition - all his brothers & sisters had died from it. He is 4 yrs old but looks like he is only 2 from being so malnourished. But he is really cute and he is being adopted here at the mission. We have

many children from the local area living here. One thing that has been done by the medical clinic is that gastroenteritis (if that's how you spell it - which I'm sure it's not) has been virtually wiped out in this area.

Anyway I better stop for now & I don't want you to have to read through a whole lot. But I do have a lot to tell you! Some features attractions from upcoming letters includes

- * more about what I do,
- * the school,
- * the bush,
- * the animals here, and much more.

Oh! How could I forget to tell you - I am now the proud mother of 3 baby armadillos! Their nest was disturbed out in the fields which meant the mother would probably reject them. So now I am feeding them with an eye dropper. I hope they make it. It would be neat to have little armadillos running around!

One last thing - please, please do not get disturbed by the bad publicity the church has gotten. I am more convinced than ever of conspiratorial & political set-ups. It is absolutely incredible how the press can print such a

filthy bunch of lies and are
 allowed to get by with it.
 They refuse to print what we
 have had to say or to show
 the truth. I guess the other
 makes for more sensational
 reading. I am not surprised
 though. A society that is based
 on economic inequality ~~to~~ and
~~has~~ classes is certainly not
 going to let an organization
 advocating economic & racial
 equality exist too easily. But
 no matter what they think, they
 will not succeed. This group has
 done too much good and helped
 to many people. ~~What~~ What
 is unfortunate is that the
 mentality of many people is un-
 objective when it comes to
 the media. Most people believe
 everything they hear on the
 news and read in the papers.
 Even mom said to me, "Well,
 they wouldn't print it if it
 wasn't true." I love her very
 much & I think she is
 very intelligent but that is
 how she sees it. I hope I you
 happen to talk to her please
 tell her not to worry about
 it since there isn't a thing
 to even be worried about in
 the first place. What I

worry about ^{us} ^{next} is that such a thing has been allowed to happen. What is ironic is that we have always been the first to stand for freedom of the press & 5th amendment rights. I can certainly tell you I will have a hard time believing the papers anymore. At least I will look at what is being said with a very scrutinizing eye. Well that's also enough of that! If you want to know anything - just ask me. The folks would be rather hard pressed to look around this place which is just one aspect of our work - and continue with what they are saying - when hundreds of needy people are being clothed, housed & fed & given good medical care.

I am also writing Mom & if you send me Layla's address I will write her too. The mail will probably take about 2 wks to get to me in the interior - so hurry up & write! One of these times I will get some guy^s to set up a phone patch & will call you on the radio! Bye for now. I love you & miss you - 3.
write. Your daughter, Maria.

P.S. THIS IS REALLY MY WRITING!!!

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