

Jan 29 – Day 6
Time; 4:00 pm
55 degree 18. 24 south 66 degrees 44.97 west
138 miles to Cape Horn
ETA- Midnight!

Dear Friends;

Two hours ago all the people on this boat went from being a passenger to an expeditionist.

What does that mean?

You're a Passenger when everything goes smooth; you know what day it is, where you are, what you're doing and where you're going.

You're an expeditionist when things start to go wrong; you're not sure where you are, what's coming ahead or where you'll be tomorrow.

This is really just a joke that the ice pilot told me. He said things ALWAYS go wrong when you're out here in this part of the world and that it's very important to have many different plans because of it. He always starts with plan A but rarely does he ever follow it. He said they usually end up with anything from plan B to M.

Just like your life at home, things will go wrong on a journey at sea; and when they do, you have to re-adjust your plans and your attitude. That's what we have to do today. Our plan was to go into Ushuaia, the last city in South America- but the longshore men are on strike there and for many reasons, the captain was told not to dock there for the day. So....we are now in Port Williams, which is REALLY the furthest city south, it's just not a touristy town. We're here to clear customs so that we can enter Argentina. Plan B is to start our journey around Cape Horn earlier than expected, which the captain says is not the greatest news because the winds are blowing between 30-40 knots and the seas are building. (They usually calm down at night) The good news is that since we have extra time, we can motor at a slower speed, which will make it more comfortable for all of us. So, at this very moment, I'm gearing up for this ride around CAPE HORN! I am hiding out in a window seat on the 5th floor of the ship with a fantastic view. I have a curtain pulled in front of me so that nobody can see me. I feel like I'm on my own little private boat here and that you are with me! You and my laptop computer.

A dutch navigator named William Schouten was the first to sail around Cape Horn. He named it after the place he was from. Hoorn in the Netherlands.

I was thinking today about all the explorers from our past that have risked their lives to find new places on this planet for us to live. It's so natural for us to want to know what's on the other side of anything and then to understand it. There was so much for them to learn. They learned about the oceans, new continents, islands, people, plants and animals. These people had curious minds and found great joy in discovering new things. Today we know where all the continents, people, oceans and islands are and so our responsibility is to learn how we can take better care of them. This is a different kind of journey but one we should take as our duty to those brave explorers who came before us. Who will be the Magellan, Drake, Shackleton, Wilkes, or Cook of this next generation? Who will discover the real cause of global warming? Who will dive down to the deepest depths of the ocean floor and discover new little critters living there? Who will fight for animals that can't fight for themselves? Who will bring people to a better understanding of what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself" and to "love God with all your heart?" The explorers of our past and the ice-pilots, geologists, marine biologists, Captains, engineers, artists, cooks, business men, shipbuilders, designers, entertainers and servants of this ship, were once sitting at a desk in their 4th grade class just like you, wondering what they can one day contribute to society. Exploration never ends. You are the commander of your ship and your trip! Where will your ship take you?

Here's video of a young man named Neil that is living out his dream. This will give you an idea of what sailing around Cape Horn is like.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovhi4Dj_GGw

Love to all,
Susie