

Baptist Medical &
Dental
Mission International
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Following His Lead

FEBRUARY 2009

**YOUR
PRAYERS ARE
A BLESSING
TO US!**

-Please pray that our marriage will stay strong, our children will remain happy and secure, that we will sell our house, and for God to continue to add ministry partners to our ministry endeavor.

-Pray that the LORD will grant us the gift of language so that we will be able to speak, hear, and understand Spanish.

Contact us:

tully@bmdmi.org

dawn@bmdmi.org

864-968-0428



New Classes, New Trimester!

Our family is settled back into our life in Costa Rica. Dawn and I have started a new trimester with new classes. We have noticed classes are definitely harder this time as we are required to think in Spanish now with current subjects—we cannot simply translate from English to Spanish. For example, double negatives

are proper grammar in Spanish, but poor grammar in English. I have two hours of grammar but instead of language class I am taking a course called FARO. For this course, I choose 7 people in the community and discuss a variety of subjects with them twice weekly. Hearing and comprehending what native speakers are saying has

been the most difficult part of language learning for me. Overall we are delighted with the progress we are making!

Prayer Requests

We have several prayer requests in addition to the ones listed on the left side of this page. Dawn and I will be traveling to Honduras from **Feb 14-18**. We will be looking at schools for our children and for a house to live in. We believe the Lord is leading us to use schools in Honduras rather than home school.

- 1) Please pray God will show us which school(s) to enroll our children.
- 2) Please pray God will show us a house to live in. We will be looking at a house that is within walking distance of BMDMI's mission house. The landlord has agreed to hold the house for us until August. Pray that God will make it obvious if this is the house HE wants us to have.
- 3) We need a house to come home to on furlough this October as our church's mission house is not available. Please pray a house will be made available to us.

Ministry in Costa Rica

I, Tully, took the four oldest boys and went to a small village of Nicaraguan refugees. We played games with some children. The gospel was presented to them in a simple manner. We and some other students plan to keep going to the village and reach out to them with the love of Christ. I talked with one 23 year old mom whose 3 year old daughter had some nausea and vomiting. All we had to give was some saltine crackers which are very common in Costa Rica. The mother was so poor she did not know what the crackers were. "Are they sweet?" she asked shyly.



Maria has lived in this village 13 years.

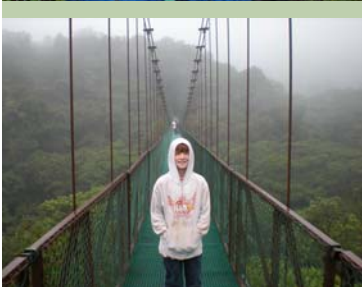


Lining up to play red light-green light.

We just have too many flash cards scattered throughout our house to try and measure their height anymore!



Many young people gathered on a weekend recently to paint the walls around Parque Copa near our house. It was amazing—mostly spray painted.



The boys walking through the treetops some hanging bridges in the cloud-forest town of Monteverde, Costa Rica.

My Brother, Tom: 1963—2008

When we traveled home to SC Thursday, December 11, we knew that my brother was very ill due to complications resulting from a congenital heart defect. I, Dawn, had received a call two days previously saying that he was on a ventilator in CICU in Tennessee. His condition grew more serious on Saturday with the onset of a high fever. My other brother, Dee, and I, along with our mom, drove to Tennessee Sunday to be with him and with my sister-in-law, Cherri, and my 17 year old niece, Chelsea. When we arrived and were able to see him, the nurses told us that there were signs that he

was improving, still with a long road ahead of him, of course. It was a shock when we went into the waiting area for CICU the next morning and learned that he was being resuscitated. Within the hour, he died.

The last conversation that I had with Tom, he told me that the problems with his heart were serious, and now the repairs that had been done previously were affecting one another. He was not afraid to die, however, because, as he said, “Jesus is my Savior—and I know I will be with Him.”

The hand of God was evident in so many ways during this difficult time. Cherri had not planned to

bring Chelsea to the hospital that morning as she had final exams later that week and needed to be in school that day. The doctors appointments for the upcoming outpatient surgeries for our children were all made by Tully—so I did not need to tell him who to take where at what time during the time I was in Tennessee. It’s normally me who makes the appointments. Just the fact that I was there—in time to be with my family—God is so good—and He continues to humble me and amaze me at His perfect plan and how He works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to his purpose. . . . Please pray for Cherri, Chelsea, my mom, and the rest of us as we continue to miss him but we all rejoice in knowing that he is with our Lord.

Health Update

Anna continues to do well and we feel she has pretty much recovered from her Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

Trey underwent surgery on his left knee the Friday before Christmas. Dr Vann said he could see where the cartilage had torn but that it was completely healed. I believe God healed Trey in answer to fervent and believing prayer. Trey is almost back to normal and only occasionally has some discomfort.

Timothy underwent “guy surgery” three days after Trey’s surgery. He is doing well and has had a complete recovery and resolution of his symptoms.

We (and all of the students) continue to have a lot of colds and coughs so please be in pray for our children as well as Dawn and me. Pray that the Lord will keep us well.



A beautiful rainbow in Monteverde Costa Rica. We could see where it touched the ground on both ends. We even were able to look down on a rainbow in a valley.