

Baptist Medical &  
Dental  
Mission International  
www.bmdmi.org

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# Following His Lead

OCTOBER, 2008

**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.

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## We're Here in Costa Rica!

We arrived in Costa Rica on August 20th. It has been a quick 7 weeks since we arrived. Our family is getting adjusted to living a new life in a foreign country. There are 94 students in our class at school. Our classes are small. Ten students in grammar, five in phonetics, and five in language. Tully and Dawn are up to their chins in Spanish nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, articles, and conjugations. We are now able to carry on some limited conversations in Spanish. Sunday in

church we noticed that we were able to understand most of what we were singing in the praise songs. The first week, we understood nothing of what we were singing.

The children have settled in to school life and life in Costa Rica. We have had some normal adjustment-bumps along the way, but overall things have gone well. The children have made many friends which helps a lot.

Our house is very nice and is located near a park and is about a 10 minute walk to the school.



Timothy feeding some pigeons in San Jose.



Preparing to worship at a small church in Los Guidos

## Health Update

- 1) **Anna** is doing much better. Although she still bruises some, it is much less than it was. Her platelet count last week was 147,000, up from 62,000.
- 2) **Timothy** fell and broke his left wrist our second day in Costa Rica. He wore a cast for three weeks. He seems to be 100% well now.
- 3) **Trey** tore the medial meniscus in his left knee about 2 weeks ago. He is using crutches.. Getting him to and from school is a challenge. Dwyndl and Lori Nelms, another couple with BMDMI, have had the use of a car this month and have been a great help getting him to and from school. Please pray for his healing and wisdom for Dawn and me as we make healthcare sions for him. Please pray for his full recovery.
- 4) We have several

Fun Numbers . . .

9 inches—the height of Dawn's and Tully's stack of index flash cards.

Funny Story:



That's Arenal Volcano in the background—a fun trip for all of us!

The word for doughnut is *dona* and the word for “madam” or “lady” is the same except for a “~” over the “n”. You pronounce that “n” like you would while holding your nose closed. One of our fellow students went into a bakery and ordered two doughnuts, one chocolate and one vanilla—what he actually ordered was two women—one black and one white, much to the laughter of some of the locals who were present and later to his fellow students.

# Adjustments. . .

We thought we would give you a list of 3 easy adjustments and 3 hard adjustments to give a feel of life in Costa Rica.

## EASY

First we will do the easy adjustments:

1) **Walking everywhere/not having a car.** We walk everywhere except far away places. Tully has lost about 15 pounds and overall feels much better. We really have enjoyed getting out and seeing the city with our shoe leather taxi's.

2) **Studying Spanish fulltime.** We are getting to the point that we can carry on some simple conversations. That is a real sense of accomplishment! We are blessed to be here and soaking up the culture as well as the language. Classes are fun and we are thoroughly enjoying learning a second language.

3) **It is has been easy and a huge blessing for ALL of us to make new friends at school.** There is a real bond between the students—of all ages, from Carmen's and Anna's little class up to Dawn's and Tully's peers, as we all feel a common bond with our fellow students. We are preparing, as families, to share the good news of Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world—and that, of course, means different things for each member of the family. With our friends here in language school, we share equally in the sacrifices we have made and the blessings we have received. Just last night when we had some people over for pizza, there were Methodists, Presbyterians, Church of Christ members, and Baptists here. Out of that group, there are two families going to Peru, one staying here in Costa Rica, one to Guatemala, one to Chile, and one to Honduras. Our conversations are not about doctrinal differences but about our call to missions, where we are going, and how we will share Jesus with others.

## HARD

1) **We have to keep the kids inside.** We cannot let them just go outside and play. Of course the same is true for any big city in the U.S. or even in a large apartment complex anywhere in the U.S. However the children are adjusting as mom and dad are and don't seem to mind being inside when we get home with all the exercise we get walking everywhere. Plus, we are blessed to have a small park nearby.

2) **No air conditioning!!** Tully is getting more acclimated to the lack of AC and does not sweat quite as much. The first few weeks were usually 2-3 showers per day. The weather is some cooler since we are in the middle of rainy season. Tully's 15 pound weight loss has helped a lot as well.

3). **School for all!** It has been an adjustment for all of us to have tests, homework, and presentations due each day. Many days we are all working together at the same time, many at the same table! It is a different way of learning, sometimes frustrating and sometimes hilarious. Dawn has enjoyed the break from homeschooling.

## Health Update Continued ...

decisions to make concerning Trey's knee. We must decide whether to get an MRI now or wait until December, and where to have the surgery, here or in the US. We are leaning towards the US at this point. Tully has already been in contact with a surgeon in Greenville who is working with us on the best plan. Again please be in prayer for Trey and us.