

Baptist Medical &
Dental
Mission International
www.bmdmi.org

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Following His Lead

DECEMBER, 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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Progress in Language!



A monkey trying to steal some breakfast at a restaurant in Punta Leona.

Almost four months! Wow! Our time here has absolutely flown by. Dawn and I are especially enjoying learning the language. It is gratifying to now be able to carry on some conversations with the nationals. We admit, however, it is humbling when our teachers spend two days

teaching us a very strange verb and our children easily blurt it out at the dinner table with proper grammar and flawless pronunciation. They are learning very quickly, also!

Speaking of the children, they are enjoying Costa Rica, school, and friends. All of us are

looking forward to Christmas break with family and friends in SC. We arrive Dec. 11 and return to Costa Rica Jan. 6 for our second trimester.



Trey getting serious about his putt-putt game.

At Our Gate . . .



Meet Manuel Antonio Salas. All over our world, hunger and poverty have names, faces, and stories. Here they come up and ring your doorbell. We give them food, and a smile,

and more and more now we are able to share some words in Spanish—the most important words there are: “Do you know Jesus?” Manuel Antonio Salas does. We wonder how many there are who don’t—all over the world.

Financial Update

We want to say thank you to all of our supporters who have faithfully continued to partner with us in ministry. We are fully aware of the financial downturn of the US economy and we continue to pray for each of you and are prudent and prayerful in how we spend the funds that are allocated to us. May God bless each of you for your dedication to reaching the lost for His glory.

Weather:

We have been through the rainy season and have survived—and it actually wasn’t too bad. . . as long as we all had our umbrellas with us! Sunny days and warm temperatures are right around the corner now. We won’t know what to do when it’s time to put down our umbrellas and stay dry for awhile!

Fun Numbers ...

11&1/2 inches-the height of Dawn's and Tully's stack of index flash cards.



Cutting grass outside our house the old fashion way—in the rain with a machete.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Please pray for the upcoming speaking engagements

Mount Moriah Baptist Church
Powdersville, SC
December 17th
Wednesday 7pm

Calvary Baptist Church
Sunday December 21
11am Service

Airport Baptist Church
Sunday December 21
6pm Service

Spiritual Emphasis Week

Our school has a week of spiritual emphasis every trimester. They have a guest speaker come in each time. Three weeks ago pastor Beltane Harrigan, from St Croix, US Virgin Islands came and spoke 9 times during the week. We had services each morning during chapel time and then again from 5pm to 6:30pm. His focus was on missions and handling some of the challenges of being on the mission field. Each of his talks was very encouraging and inspiring. We were blessed to have him come to our house for dinner one evening. It was a great time for all of us! The power went out for about 45 minutes but we just lit candles and kept talking. We have kept in touch with Beltane via email since then and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.



Elijah is laughing as all of our boys took turns sharing jokes and riddles with Pastor Harrigan.

Feliz Navidad!

Anna, Carmen, and Elijah participated in a short Christmas program with their classes on Dec 3rd. They sang Spanish Christmas carols and one class put on a play of the events surrounding Jesus' birth. It brought tears to our eyes as we listened to the Christmas story in Spanish spoken by precious children of many nationalities.

Can you guess which kid in the picture at left has five older brothers?



El Día de Gracias Or Happy Thanksgiving

We had a great celebration with friends on Thanksgiving Day. Around 80 people from school got together and rented a large meeting room near the school. We ordered chickens from a local meat store. They make the best rotisserie chicken that is roasted over coffee beans. Turkeys are very expensive in Costa Rica. A 20 lb. turkey costs ~\$75. Everyone brought 2 side dishes and/or dessert. Dawn made a grits casserole complete with plenty of cheese and whipping cream. Several of the Northerners had never had grits so they were very curious to try them. They were a big hit with most everyone. The kids all had a great time playing with the other children. We started in typical fashion. Everyone took turns telling where they were from, what they are thankful for, and where they are going when they leave language school. A good time was had by all.

Chickens are delivered by motorcycle to Steve Wilson, a missionary from Maine. They were fresh off the spit.



Health Update

To follow up on Anna, we reported last time that her platelet count was back to normal but she was still bruising some. Her skin looks normal now and she no longer bruises easily like she used to. We thank God for her healing!