



Fun Sartor Facts:

- Did you know that January 20th is National Cheese Day?
- As far as we know, there is only one place in Costa Rica to buy Velveeta - AND WE'VE FOUND IT!
- Lauren has begun substitute teaching for a local private school.
- Matt is still plugging away at web design. There's always plenty of work when payment is optional.
- Lauren's family will visit in March. This means free food for one whole week!
- We have to leave Costa Rica every 90 days until we obtain residency.
- Matt likes the food and customs so much here, he's been dubbed an honorary "Tico."
- Bad driving is universal, but here it is the standard.

Starting Out the New Year



Matt & Lauren in snowy Dallas

Hello Everyone!
The middle of February is here and somehow it still feels like we are starting out the new year.

Perhaps it is because we spent over a month back in the States visiting friends and family during the holidays. We saw many old friends, made a couple of new ones and enjoyed one of our best Christmas and New Years Eve celebrations ever. Our time in the U.S. was incredible, but not without trials. On our first day back, Matt made a visit to his Urologist and found out that he may need surgery on his kidney to remove some new stones that have appeared since his first surgery last April. Please pray for healing and for provision as our new insurance company has chosen not to cover any ailments regarding Matt's kidney. Our second day back wasn't much better. Sadly, our car was broken into during a lunch meeting in San Antonio and Matt's leather jacket and backpack with his laptop computer were stolen. Although this second blow sent us both reeling a bit, we did our best to remain close to God and each other. Though we did neither perfectly, His grace proved sufficient. Before our trip ended, God granted us peace about Matt's health and He was also faithful to provide us with another computer. We were also very grateful for the time given to us in the States by so many of you. Thank you for taking the time to share your lives with us and for allowing us to do the same with you.

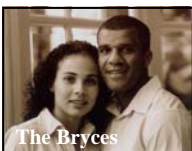
<i>Gifts may be sent to:</i>	<i>Please make checks payable to BWAB. BWAB is a</i>
<i>The Sartors</i>	<i>501 (c)(3) organization and</i>
<i>c/o IOM</i>	<i>you will receive a receipt</i>
<i>P.O. Box 2130</i>	<i>for your tax-deductible gift.</i>
<i>Daphne, Alabama 36526</i>	

Being surrounded by such a wonderful community made it difficult to leave, but in our hearts, we were anxious to return to the country that God has called us to. Coming back to San Jose has in many ways been like starting over. Our Spanish had regressed somewhat, and let's just say Matt's "somewhat" was significantly more than Lauren's "somewhat." Obviously, this makes talking with friends, and getting around town *interesting*. Nonetheless, we somehow manage and we do our best to laugh more than we cry. Being frequently misunderstood can sometimes be like starring in a one character movie entitled "The Joke's on You!" In all seriousness, we truly desire to learn the language well while we are here so that we might be able to communicate with our mouths the love that we are so desperately trying to communicate with our lives. Pray that God would help us in word and in deed during our day to day lives here in San Jose.

So what has the day to day been like here recently? Well, we have actually been praying about that a lot. There are so many opportunities to serve here, that at times it can feel overwhelming determining what all we should actually give ourselves to. We want to do the most we can potentially do while we are

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Friends in the Making



The Bryces

In our last newsletter, we referred to our process of discovering how our lives are not our own. First, they belong to the Lord, and then to those that He has brought into our lives. Growing in our ability to become available for what He desires to do in us and in the people around us may require personal sacrifice, but it is a labor that bears much fruit. In opening our lives to our neighbors, Steven and Cristina, the Lord has been faithful to produce much fruit. This young, newly married couple have become true friends in the time that we have lived here. The Lord is forging a deeper

connection between Cristina and me (Lauren) in particular and as a result between Himself and me. My time with Cristina has evolved from casual conversation and recipe trading into a forum for mutual encouraging in the Lord, reading and discussing His word, and praying together. We are reading a book, "El Poder de la Esposa Que Ora," together and praying specifically for our marriages and our husbands. It is very encouraging to have a friend to share with and pray with in a new and foreign place, and we have been witnesses to the fact that there *is* power in prayer. We are completely dependent on God's provision here and He is so faithful to answer us when we call on Him.

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here, but we also want to do well with the things we have already been given in the present. Currently, the BWAB Latin American team is still in the process of becoming a unified and well oiled machine. We are learning more about one another, how to best serve each other, and how to work together most effectively. A recent youth camp on the beaches of Costa Rica served as an excellent bonding experience for us all and we are continuing to move forward together toward our mission of reaching youth and building leaders both here and abroad.

As a team, we meet once a week for fellowship and Bible study. It's great to hang out, catch up, pray together, and grow together as a community. In March, we are hoping to begin a house church in Spanish that will meet on Friday evenings. In addition to that, the team continues to support our church youth group on weekends, and every other week we help out with a feeding ministry at a local Nicaraguan village. Lauren is also helping to teach several English classes for children and adults in the village.

Both Matt and Lauren have recently been invited to attend another set of meetings on Monday afternoons. The first is a powerfully charismatic group of mostly ladies that get together to pray with one another and study God's word. Lauren has been once and was really encouraged by her time there. Our neighbor, Cristina, is a regular attendee in the group and she wants Matt to start coming so that it might motivate her husband Steven to come as well. Cristina and Steven have also asked us to be a part of a local Bible Study for professional athletes here in Costa Rica. Matt has been once and we are both prayerful about whether or not to continue going. We also are still planning on meeting with both Cristina and Steven weekly to pray

and study the Bible together. All of these meetings are in Spanish of course, which is always fun for Matt.

Another couple (mentioned in our first newsletter) we are looking to spend some more time with is Charlyn and Enrique Mejia. They are a couple that is constantly giving and we hope to be a couple that can give to them. Besides spending more time with them as a family, Enrique has mentioned the possibility of coaching an inner-city soccer team with Matt's help.

Finally, we are both venturing into the world of work here. Through friends of friends, which is how you get a lot of things accomplished here, Lauren has found a position substitute teaching here in Costa Rica, and Matt has been offered the opportunity to rebuild the website for the very same school. At this point, our ability to remain in Costa Rica depends heavily upon the extra support that comes as a result of these jobs. God has taken care of us financially since we arrived here last August and He was good to give us more ways to raise support for our time here. We want to take this moment to thank all of you who have supported us financially and a special thanks to those of you who continue to do so. Thank you for the prayers, the emails, the phone conversations and as always, the friendship. Please hold us up in your prayers and know that we would not be able to move forward here without the relationships we have with so many of you back home. May God bless you in the measure that you have been a blessing to us here in Cost Rica.

With Much Love,

The Sartors

That's a Little Different . . .

For about two dollars, you can rent the latest DVDs in Costa Rica. You can even find some of the latest in-theater movies on DVD if you go to the right store. Most rental shops here are just like Blockbuster, but cheaper and without any system of organization. At our local rental store, if you rent a movie from the section we call "New Releases," and return it within 24 hours, your next movie is free. With a complete lack of anti-piracy enforcement however, the odds of getting an original DVD here are slim and copied discs don't often work. The whole process *is* entertaining, and that's what we were after to begin with, right?



Boy With a Ball (www.boywithaball.com) is a non-profit ministry that exists to strategically attract and disciple young men and women across major population centers into relationships with Jesus and then equip them to strategically turn, attract, and equip other young people until the community is saturated with dynamic young leaders. The goal of Boy With A Ball team members is to see a revolutionary transformation occur in the youth populations and cultures where they work, resulting in as many young people as possible coming to know Jesus Christ in a relational way, focusing on these five areas:

1. Walking in intimacy with the Father through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Hearing His voice and communicating with Him moment to moment.
3. Allowing Him to speak into our lives and begin the healing process of the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical-wounds we have suffered throughout life.
4. Coming to a full knowledge of the purpose for which the Father has created us.
5. Understanding the spiritual gifts we have been given by Him for the accomplishment of His purpose for our lives and the lives of those around us.