



Fun Sartor Facts:

- The Sartors have lived in a combined total of four countries.
- After all of this travel, we may finally have enough miles for a free ticket. Where to go?
- Having a gym next door is like having your own personal gym that other people use.
- Matt uses X-Box live strictly to keep up with friends. Strictly.
- It's warm and beautiful where we are. How about you?
- There is no such thing as a good hamburger in Costa Rica.
- Though we did see the Super Bowl, we didn't get to see any of the commercials.
- Lauren's birthday is March 3rd!
- We will spend several months in Austin before heading to Atlanta.

Leaving Home is Never Easy



Matt & Lauren in Austin, Texas

Dear Friends,
We have begun making preparations for our return back to the U.S. On February 21st, we will follow

God's leading as we say good-bye to Costa Rica for the time being, and begin our journey toward Atlanta, Georgia. Though we will always be a part of the community here, we go now to work and serve in another place that we will eventually call home.
Because both of our families live in Texas, Georgia might not appear to be the most obvious next step for us. Looking back though, many of the choices we made in faith make sense only now in hindsight. We have found that trying to make great sense of things can often be an inhibitor to trusting God. Still, we do not make decisions lightly or without careful consideration. Over the past months we have prayed, asked questions, had conversations, explored possibilities and listened carefully to all that God would say throughout everything. We believe He is saying Atlanta. Our certainty however is in Him, not in our decision and so we will continue to pray and seek council as we make ready to head to Georgia.

Though we are not overly anxious to leave, we are indeed looking forward to this new season. We thank God that our community is increasingly global and ever expanding. In that vein, we are not really leaving at all, rather we are experiencing increased commu-

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<i>The Sartors</i>	<i>501 (c)(3) organization and</i>
<i>c/o IOM</i>	<i>you will receive a receipt</i>
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nity. So much has happened during our time here in Costa Rica. We have built non-profits, helped with businesses, taught in schools, taken part in countless groups, fellowshipped with friends, prayed with strangers, fed the hungry, clothed the poor, camped with youth in the jungles of Costa Rica and the woods of Mississippi, gone to barbecues, planned conferences, hosted and housed future missionaries, fixed countless computers, attended meetings in Washington D.C., driven through perilous mountains, shared scripture and our hearts (sometimes in Spanish!), celebrated new marriages and births and mourned over loved ones lost. We have been misunderstood by many, persecuted by some, challenged by all, taught thoroughly by the wise, and loved deeply by the most generous of people. We have lived life as we would live it anywhere: in hopes of pleasing God. Clearly our mission is not over, nor does it end when we leave San Jose. His call on our lives transcends geography and there is much work yet to be done, in us and through us. God began His good work in us many years ago and thankfully, He has promised to see it through to completion.

The process of salvation is an incredible one and we are excited to see what God will
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Trapped in Paradise



Our private patio view

What would a trip in Costa Rica be without a little bit of disaster? Lauren and I took what we were calling our farewell trip early last week. The trip would last four days and would entail driving to Sarchi, the land of hand made furniture and beautifully painted ox-carts; Punta Leona, our favorite beach in all of Costa Rica; and end at a beautiful hotel called Villa Calatas, which boasts a magnificent view of land and sea. Each day was filled with lush scenery, delicious food, and of course splendid company. Sadly, after three days use, the SUV we were borrowing could no longer handle our abuse and decided

that keeping its wheels intact was no longer an option. Fortunately, we became suddenly aware of the problem and were able to park the car before it lost one of its front wheels completely. The astute owner of the hotel informed me that the wheel did not look good and whoever we had borrowed the vehicle from would not be happy. I thanked him for his candor and proceeded to call a tow truck. There was no one in the area who would be able to fix the car and it would have to make the 2-3 hour trek back to San Jose on the flatbed of a tow truck. The tower told us we were lucky to be alive. We thanked God and did our best to enjoy the rest of our time. The next day we had to catch a public bus home, and that too was quite a story

Leaving Home is Never Easy (Continued from page 1)

do with us in Atlanta. We are convinced that we will experience culture shock in as much as we have experienced it here. And like here, we will prayerfully consider what to put our hands to. For the moment, we look forward to getting to know the pastor of Covenant Life Church, John Duke and his wife Ellen, as well as the rest of the community there. We are by no means strangers to that church, but there will plenty of people that we will want to get to know in and outside of the church. Because we believe deeply in spiritual authority, we were glad to have received both a warm invitation by the Dukes to come, and an encouraging blessing from the Johnsons to go.

Though this will be our final newsletter from San Jose, Costa Rica, it will definitely not be our last. From the very beginning, these newsletters were written so that our relationships with those whom God has joined us with might be strengthened as we share what God is doing among us. Your involvement in our life has been, and will continue to be an essential part of discovering all that God intends for us. We could not have made it in Costa Rica without your prayers, support, and friendship. We will never be able to adequately express our gratitude for your faithful involvement.

As we make our way to the U.S., we hope that your involvement in our lives will continue. We would also like to take this opportunity to ask that your support of Boy With a Ball continue. We plan on working with BWAB in an administrative

capacity from Atlanta and will also maintain the website from there. The work in Costa Rica and San Antonio is still expanding and we, along with these teams, thank you for all that you give.

If there is one thing that we have grown more certain of over these past few years, it has been the continued realization of our overwhelming need for God. Our lives will always exemplify that need whether or not we decide to communicate it. We realize that everyone we meet has a measure of faith. Many of us oftentimes place great faith in our own abilities, strengths, intellect, emotions, and personal successes. Faith in Jesus Christ does not allow for such self-reliance and independence. You are either serving His Kingdom or trying to establish your own. It is with this understanding that we have sought direction from Him as we take steps down the road that He has laid before us. We will always remember our time in Costa Rica fondly, but we are definitely excited about what is on the horizon. Thank you again for your friendship throughout it all.

With Much Love,

The Sartors

A man's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand his own way?

— Proverbs 20:24

That's a Little Different . . .



TELSTAR: Machine of the Future!

America is all about convenience. There are certainly some pluses and minuses to this approach to life, but overall, convenience is something that both Lauren and I have grown somewhat accustomed to. In Costa Rica, life is about many wonderful things, convenience not

necessarily being one of them. Though we have lived quite well here in San Jose, there have been a few luxuries here and there that we've missed since living in the U.S. and are more than happy to be returning to. Washers and dryers immediately come to mind. We'd like to introduce you to our friend the TELSTAR IMC-45. Just shy of hand washing, the TELSTAR can easily turn a typical 1 to 2 hour laundry cycle into an all day affair. To start, the basket is about half the size of your average modern day washer, so load size is considerably cut down. To wash a load, begin by filling the machine with water from the hose of your

choice. We like color coded systems, so to fill the laundry machine up with hot water, we use the spigot with the red hose, the cold water spigot has a blue hose. After several accidents, we have learned that you must monitor this portion of the wash cycle at all times. The amount

of soap you have to use is anybody's guess. After a wash cycle, drain out all of the water. Fill the machine up again to rinse. Repeat as needed (which is code for like 2 or 3 more times to get all the soap out). Once rinsing is completed, move a fraction of the clothes at a time into the spin bucket to the right of the washing basket. Set the timer for five minutes and your clothes will be ready to hang on the ceiling! That's right, grab that rope and pulley and lower your hanging rack so you can raise the clothes back up to the plastic covered ceiling where the sun will dry your clothes within days (except during the rainy season of course).



Like most Costa Ricans, we use our solar ceiling instead of a dryer.



Boy With a Ball Global is a non-profit organization that works in teams to dynamically impact young people in cities across the world through:

- reaching young people in their neighborhoods
- equipping them to grow into leaders
- building communities of and around them
- releasing them to improve the world

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