



Fun Sartor Facts:

- Last week, we tempted fate and drove for the first time in Costa Rica.
- We finally found a pizza place here with real pepperoni!!! Don't ask what fake pepperoni is.
- Our good friends, Ryan and Magen Quiroz came for a visit! It was wonderful having them here.
- We are taking a trip to Alaska with Lauren's family in July.
- The rainy season has started in Costa Rica and we get wet a lot.
- The guard next to our gym knows our names, but we don't know his.
- Incessantly barking dogs are cute almost never.
- Our friend's soccer team won the national championship in May.
- The U.S. soccer team killed Costa Rica 3-0.

Coming or Going?



Matt & Lauren in Costa Rica

Hello Friends, So much takes place in a three month period that it's always quite the challenge to try and sum up everything in a meaningful way. Since our last newsletter, we had finally been getting into a bit of a groove here in Costa Rica. We had a full schedule, our Spanish was coming along and our relationships were developing. Because we are not yet residents of Costa Rica, we had to take a trip out of the country in late March so that we can remain legal 'tourists' here. We traveled to San Andres, an island off Columbia, with a couple we had recently met here. The week was relaxing and refreshing. God really used that time to draw us closer to Himself and to each other. We were encouraged and excited to return to Costa Rica at the end of our stay.

Sadly, the first message waiting for us on our answering machine when we got back was one letting us know that Matt's mother has passed away two days before our return to Costa Rica. The news was unexpected and very difficult to receive. We immediately purchased airplane tickets to Dallas to begin making arrangements for Matt's mother. Our time there was filled with many challenges and the reality of it all has yet to sink in fully. Grief is a strange creature that we all respond to differently and we are still very much in the process of grieving over Matt's loss. Strangely, our

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time in San Andres helped to prepare us for our time in the States. We stood together in all things and whenever it seemed as though we were coming up against a wall, God would make a way for us. God granted us a peace that surpassed all understanding and surrounded us with His love during our three week stay in Texas. In addition to family, we saw and met with many friends and spiritual family and we knew without a doubt that we were being taken care of by our Father in heaven. We want to thank all of you for your prayers, letters of concern, and overall support during these past few months. In many of you we witnessed the true beauty of God's church where all who believe have a place to give, and in giving we all receive.

We finally made it back to Costa Rica in May and after being gone for yet another month, we couldn't help but feel that we were starting over again. The groove was gone and the faith to find it again was waning. But, we have persevered and done our best to serve in any capacity that we can. Each day God puts something before us all and we are given the choice to walk His way or our own. We, as a couple, continually strive to choose His way over our own, wherever we are. In our success

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www.thesartors.com



For several years now, Matt has worked part-time as a web designer. More recently, Matt has been fortunate enough to work on some projects with his good friend Justin Kuravackal. The result has been the formation their own web design company: Onedotsix. These two have been working in their free time to build sites for all sorts of clients. God has really blessed Matt & Justin with a great working relationship and a steady stream of work. Lately, the thought has often occurred to Matt that perhaps he should build a Sartor Family web site. Before long, **www.thesartors.com** had

emerged! Check it out and you'll find pages with info about us, recent newsletters and photos. If you visit often, you'll see that the info on the main page changes regularly. This is where we will be updating everyone on what we are doing, thinking, and praying. We'll tell you where we are, where we've been, even where we're going. You might find some eventual ramblings about movies we've seen, music we're enjoying, books we're reading, or websites we're visiting. More than anything, this new site will serve as yet another point of connection to those of you we have been fortunate enough to know. Don't hesitate to join in on the conversation or leave a comment now and then. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

*Coming or Going (Continued from page 1)*

and in our failure God is ever-present, helping us always to find our way back to Him. We are continually grateful for our time in this place and are always anxious to be used as messengers and examples of the life, peace, and joy that we find only in His son Jesus Christ.

Our opportunities to be used in such a way are plentiful here. Matt is spending two days a week working with Boy With a Ball in the areas of organizational development, fundraising, camps and conferences. He has spent quite a bit of time also on-line working on several web-design projects with his friend Justin. Lauren spends Sunday and Thursday afternoons teaching English to Nicaraguan immigrants in a tiny 3 acre village known as a precario. She has also continued to enjoy substitute teaching at a private Christian school here. Recently, we were offered two full time teaching positions with this school. They want Matt to develop a computer curriculum for grades seven through twelve. Lauren was offered American History, World History, U.S. Government, and English classes for eleventh and twelfth graders. She had been under the impression that she might be offered a job teaching English to middle-schoolers, but the school moved one of their teachers from within to that position and no longer had an opening there. Though it was a difficult decision (that had to be made in one day no less), with much prayer and counsel we decided to wait for something more suited to Lauren's abilities. Matt did not want to take the

job unless Lauren did and so his choice was made when hers was. We are still waiting to hear back from the school to see if they have any English or middle-school positions for Lauren. There is still the possibility that we could end up there next fall, but at this point it is not likely.

In a way, not having full-time jobs to look to next fall frees us up to press into our language learning and our relationships in the many places we find ourselves. We have made a commitment to travel as little as possible over the next year so that we can concentrate our effort and our lives here. We are coming up on our one year anniversary here and we see so many places where we need to grow. We never believed that our time here would be easy, but we would like to feel as though we have done all that we can to make a godly impact on Costa Rica. We are certain that we have quite a ways to go before we get to that point, but as always we are excited about the road ahead. We know that we are here because God told us to be. We also know that any good that comes from us has more to do with who He is rather than who we are.

With Much Love,

**The Sartors**

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." —Galatians 6:9-10

***That's a Little Different . . .***



How to shop in a Costa Rican grocery store: First, you've got to get there without being run over. Traffic can be pretty hazardous even in the parking lot, so be careful. The shopping carts live outside, but you'll have to get past the guys selling lottery tickets if you want one. Once you've selected a cart without any foreign substance

on it or in it, you make your way into the store. There's only one small door where people tend to congregate so you've got to make your move quickly. Before you know it you're in the store and trying to decide where to go first. Why not fruits and veggies? Be warned, some produce needs to be weighed and some does not. Your guess is as good as anyone's as there are no signs giving any sort of indication. We just usually take it all to the fruit and vegetable weighing person (when they're around) and they pull out what needs to be weighed and stick price sticker on your bags once they are finished. Okay, we've got to get around the meat section while enduring the smell and avoiding that weird cheese they are always trying to get us to taste. Stare at the ground and try not to hit anyone with your cart. Make your way to the

next aisle of choice. Mental note, carefully inspect the aisle before proceeding as most aisles tend to have one or two on-site product representatives. If you know what you are looking for these insistent people will probably inform you that you don't, while they physically suggest that you take home their soup when really all you want is some cooking oil. Looking angry or pretending that you don't understand Spanish can sometimes help you to avoid this scenario. This, however, will not help you avoid the floor waxers. These guys are waxing the floor all day long and they don't seem to like pesky customers getting in their way. If you see one in front of you, turn back and plot a new course. Once you've got everything you need, get to the cashier. If you can't find what you need, neither can the employees. Important reminder: the lights over the cash register are in no way an indicator of which registers are open. You'll just have to guess or ask. Make sure you leave your cart in the aisle because it won't fit through the line. Trust us, we've tried. Don't worry, a young employee will be by shortly to take it back outside before too long. Finally, you can pay. If you're lucky, they'll bag the groceries for you. If you're unlucky, you'll get stuck with the guy who really wants to carry your groceries home for you, and you'll have to engage in a 5 minutes discussion trying to convince him otherwise. If you can make it back through the perilous traffic, you'll soon be home again kicking yourself because after all of that, you forgot the milk.



**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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