



**Fun Sartor Facts:**

- The sidewalks are so bad here we have become known as the "Tripping Gringos."
- You can take a taxi almost anywhere in San Jose for \$.50-\$2
- Matt's Spanish is so bad, he manages to offend at least one taxi driver a week.
- Lauren is taking flamenco lessons every Wednesday evening.
- Matt is learning to cook typical Costa Rican dishes.
- McDonald's and Taco Bell deliver here!
- We will be hosting an American Thanksgiving meal for 20 people in our garage sometime this month.
- Neither Matt nor Lauren have ever cooked a turkey.
- Matt received a mountain bike as payment for a website he is currently building.

**Life in the City**



Matt & Lauren in CR Dear Friend,  
Nearly three months have passed since our long-awaited move to San Jose, Costa Rica. Naturally, much has happened since we arrived here in August. In our first month here a great deal of what we experienced was not what we were expecting, but everything that took place was clearly according to God's perfect plan rather than our own.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, after our plane arrived four hours late to San Jose, we quickly learned that our anticipated home was not yet vacated and we would have to stay with the Johnsons indefinitely. One month later, God answered our prayers by giving us the ideal apartment four blocks from the Johnsons. It is a very small studio apartment, but just right for the two of us.

Our second month here was focused on learning the language. We have just completed a month long language intensive program, where we had the advantage of being in the same class. This course provided a good foundation for the language learning that will continue to take place in the future.

Now in our third month, we are beginning the long road to better understanding Costa Rican culture. An important cultural lesson that we are in the process of learning here is that our lives are completely open. We are discovering how to

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The Sartors  
c/o IOM  
P.O. Box 2130  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

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be constantly available for the people that God has brought into our lives here. Friends and neighbors tend to stop by unexpectedly or to invite us over frequently to their homes. These visits usually last at least three hours, with much food and conversation (often a mixture of Spanish and English). We have found that there are no such things as short visits in Costa Rica.

In opening our lives and our hearts, we have had the opportunity to become great friends with our neighbors/landlords here. Steven, a professional soccer player, and his wife Cristina, a university student, are newly married and very close in age to us. She is an enthusiastic cook and she is always interested in trading recipes and samples from the kitchen. We have started cooking and eating together at least once a week, and we are able to discuss all kinds of ideas with them. Our discussions about the Bible usually end with one or both couples leaving with homework for the next time we meet. We already feel such a connection with them, and we are looking forward to the promise of building a deeper friendship.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**A Costa Rican Jungle Fiasco**



Tire Change #1

A month ago, I (Matt) was invited to take a trip to a youth camp in the rainforest to train youth leaders. Let me begin by saying the trip was incredible and I learned deep truths about God's provision through people's hospitality. With that said, the trip was a total fiasco. Here are the fragmented highlights: First leg of the trip takes over seven hours instead of expected three. Early start next day means four hours of sleep. Thirty youth can ride standing in the back of a vegetable truck for several hours. Vegetable trucks get flat tires when carrying 30 kids. Pushing two

cars up steep gravel/mud roads is mandatory. Large monkeys like to yell at people. Hiking after pushing cars is also mandatory. Camp has no running water. Must hike one mile with a five-gallon bucket to fill up a toilet after learning this truth. English anyone? Rice and beans for every meal. Sloths are fun to watch. Venomous snakes are NOT fun to pee next to. Playing beach soccer makes for blisters on feet. Picking coconuts is dangerous for climbers and bystanders. Potholes are invisible in the dark, resulting in yet another flat tire. Our response to the rental car company: "What dents? What scratches? What hubcaps?" Home never looked so good.

**Life in the Big City** (Continued from page 1)

I (Matt) have also had the chance to build a relationship with another neighbor named Andres, who I met our first week in Costa Rica. In addition to serving as the executive director of the Costa Rican branch of the Humane Society, he has started an organization that is putting together an eco-challenge to be hosted in Nicaragua. He was in desperate need of a web page, but as it is a new organization with minimal sponsorship at this point, he did not have much to spend. I have offered to help build a site for his organization, Trio Adventure, for free. Andres is not a believer and I am hoping for more relational time with him in the future. Web design and teaching are careers that we are able to pursue no matter where we are, and God has definitely made a way for us to "tent-make" here. We are both continuing to pray about the possibilities and the opportunities to work while here.

When we are not caught up in the every day activities, we are busy going to youth meetings, taking youth trips to the jungle, planning youth camps, going to four hour church meetings, planning an American Thanksgiving dinner for twenty, or just taking adventures around the city or country in a bus or taxi.

We also hope to begin spending more time in an impoverished Nicaraguan village that the *Blood and Fire* ministry has been working with here in San Jose. We recognize our need to develop better language skills to communicate with the people here who do not know any English and to be able to serve them effectively. Still, we are more than willing to serve where we are able in the meantime.

We are grateful for the opportunities God has already given us here and we are very excited to see what He will bring about in the future. We are realizing that in our needs, God is truly enough for us, even though we rarely ever allow Him to be. He stands willing to give more. We have only to ask. If we do not become people who can honestly say that God is enough, then we will have nothing to give apart from ourselves. We hope to pass on all that He is pouring into us, and we are praying that He will help us to turn to Him in all things.

A special thanks to all of you who have been praying for us, emailing us, and supporting us financially. We are grateful as ever for your relationships and glad to have you as an active part of seeing people here come to a very real and personal relationship with Jesus through strong community and healthy discipleship. Please continue to stand with us as we seek to equip youth and build leaders here and in the U.S.!

In His Service,

**The Sartors**

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

In Costa Rica, home security is a very important issue. Houses have an endless amount of locks and are typically surrounded by walls with some kind of preventative device affixed to the top. Note to the right, a broken beer bottle stands ready to deter any prying burglar that might consider leaping over a twenty foot wall. You can also use razor wire. Why let the maximum security prisons have all the fun. Keeping your home safe has never been so easy!

**Costa Rican Home Security Systems**



**Boy With a Ball** 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.