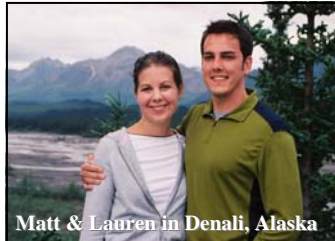




Fun Sartor Facts:

- Look out world, Lauren is teaching again!
- Since Lauren has a work visa, we don't have to leave the country every 90 days.
- The Sartors have been to a total of 3 youth camps this year.
- Our apartment is undergoing construction to repair wall damage from last year's earthquake and heavy rains.
- We fit all of our furniture and belongings into our bedroom. We call it **the cave**.
- We finally learned the name of the guard next to our gym, but he asked that we not put his name in this newsletter.
- We attended a Costa Rican progressive dinner that spanned 7 courses and houses.
- Crazy thing is, pretty much everyone here speaks Spanish.

One Year and Counting



Matt & Lauren in Denali, Alaska

Hey Everyone, August 15th marked our one year anniversary here in Costa Rica. We would like to begin this newsletter by thanking those of you who have supported us in so many ways over the past year. We deeply appreciate your gifts, your phone calls, your letters, and of course your friendship. We look forward to our continued relationships with all of you as we step into a new year here in San Jose. To our friends affected by the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, please know that our prayers are with you.

So much has happened since we returned from our time in the States in late July. Immediately upon returning, Matt was again offered a job teaching computer courses at a private school. After much prayer and deliberation, he turned down the offer. Two days later, the job that had originally been offered to Lauren back in May was offered to her again. The teacher who had originally taken the job had left the school at the last minute and they were in dire need of a teacher. With much coaxing from the principal, Lauren agreed to take a job teaching U.S. & World History and U.S. Government to high school students. Though she is not overly excited about the subjects she will be teaching, she is looking forward to building relationships with all of her new students.

It wasn't long before we *both* had a chance to get to know the students. This year,

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Gifts may be sent to: *Please make checks payable to BWAB. BWAB is a 501 (c)(3) organization and you will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible gift.*

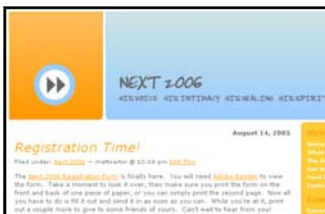
The Sartors
c/o IOM
P.O. Box 2130
Daphne, Alabama 36526

the school decided to have a four day camp at the beginning of the year in order start the year with a Christian focus. It was also a great chance for students and teachers get to know each other outside of school. Because they were short on male staffers for the camp, the school asked Matt to come along as well. Each of us had a cabin with kids in it. Matt had 11th grade guys and Lauren had 11th grade girls. The week went well overall and because it was a Christian camp, many of the kids gave their lives to Jesus. It is evident that there is a hunger for the deep things of God in these young people. The challenge here is showing them who God is in a way that they understand while encouraging them to walk in the truths that they begin to discover along the way. Lauren has the opportunity to share God's love with these kids every day that she teaches. Matt has also been invited to speak at the school on occasion. Although this job may only last for two months, we believe that our impact on the school and the kids there will be eternal.

The kids aren't the only ones getting to know us these days either. Two Sundays ago we participated in a progressive dinner with several of the other teachers and their significant others. We went from house to house,

(Continued on page 2)

Next 2006



On December 29th, hundreds of people will gather together in Atlanta, Georgia for a conference called Next 2006. Next is a conference that seeks to bring the loosely connected "next" generation of today's Church together into a community that provokes them to live in moment to moment covenant relationship with the Father, walk in covenant relationship with one another, and draw others around them to do the same. This year's conference will include an intergenerational dialogue filled with powerful messages, intense and

relevant small groups, Spirit-led outreach, honest worship, and of course, a rigorous team competition. It is Matt's hope that Next 2006 will be an extraordinarily amazing time. This is the second time that he, and a handful of others have worked together to bring about this conference. Matt has been tremendously blessed to be a part of this growing community over the past several years and looks forward to many others enjoying the experience as well. If you or someone that you know might be interested in attending the Next conference, please e-mail us at thesartors@gmail.com. Or, feel free to check out the Next 2006 website located at www.boywithaball.com/next/. We can't wait to hear from you!

Coming or Going (Continued from page 1)

getting to know one another better and better as we ate to our hearts content. By the end of the evening, Matt had a guy's night set into motion for all the men who were there. He got their names and phone numbers and plans on having them over soon for some barbeque, prayer, movies, gaming, and Spanish practice! Fellowship among men has always been important to Matt and he is excited to get a chance to make it happen here in Costa Rica. Never to be outdone, the ladies decided that a Guy's night would be the perfect time to have a Girl's night. These times together would be a casual and easy way to engage all sorts of people, and we are excited about the potential for these groups. We are always grateful for the opportunities given to us to build relationships that expand God's kingdom here on earth.

As we have met new people and made new friends, we have also been doing our best to continue investing in our existing relationships. One of our closest friends, Steven Bryce, recently moved to Cyprus to further pursue his professional soccer career. As his wife Cristina is almost 8 months pregnant, she has remained behind so that she can have the baby here and leave soon after to join her husband in Cyprus. We have known the Bryces for nearly a year now and are not anxious to see them go. We are hopeful that our last months with them will be fruitful as we seek to encourage them in this huge transition in their lives.

We continue to meet weekly with our team here to eat together and study the book of Matthew. We are an Acts 2:42 kind of group, looking to see what God will do next as we share our lives together. We have also enjoyed several meals with other missionaries that we have met in our time here and have had a good time swapping stories as our paths cross. There have also been several friends that have come to visit from the U.S. over the past year and we are anticipating several more in the near future. We love having guests experience in part what life is like in this place. We have been made better in coming here and have seen aspects of God's character that we do not believe we could have seen anywhere else. Being here has been a blessing to us. It is our hope that we might also *be* a blessing to everyone that we come into contact with, from the taxi drivers, to the checkout girl at the grocery store, coworkers, friends, and strangers too. Please remember us in your prayers as we are always in need. Apart from Him, we have very little to offer.

With Much Love,

The Sartors

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. —2 Corinthians 12:9

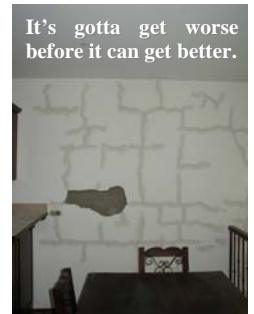
That's a Little Different . . .

:Many of you have never seen our apartment. It's a small one bedroom that sits above a garage in a little compound near central Moravia in San Jose. The place was new when we moved in and we were the very first tenants to have the apartment. Not long after moving in, there was a sizeable earthquake that shook our home pretty good. The next day we noticed several new cracks in many of the walls. Because it was the rainy season, the days were wet and before long, so were our walls. The outside of the house had not been properly sealed and as a result water was coming in through the cracks in our walls giving us concerns about the possibility of mold. Being the people we are, we assumed that this damage would be covered either by homeowner's insurance, or by a builder's guarantee and we were assured by our landlord and good friend Steven that it would be taken care of. We even thought that on perhaps one of our many trips to the States, Steven might surprise us by taking care of it while we were gone. Fast forward to nearly one year later. Last week, Steven tells me the painters are coming to take care of the cracks and paint the house. They are to begin their work on Monday. I cancel all plans on Monday, but the painters never come. The next morning, I am heading to the BWAB office, when lo and behold, I discover a painter waiting outside our gate wondering why we didn't open the

gate sooner. I laughed to myself and let him in and the chaos begins. Turns out painting over the cracks isn't the plan at all. Oh, and there's no insurance or warranty. The guy tells the Bryces that he is going to have to sand down the plaster and completely remove it in places to keep the damage from recurring. Before I could say "Now's not a good time," the work had begun and you will notice the change in our wall's façade up above. Imagine Lauren's surprise when she came home from school. There is dust floating everywhere and because Costa Ricans don't believe in drop-cloths, all of our furniture is stacked in our bedroom to protect it from the dust. "Welcome home honey!" Of course we are very glad to have our walls finally fixed, but living in the middle of a construction zone has been quite the adventure. Oh well, Pura Vida!



The dining area before invasion/construction.



It's gotta get worse before it can get better.



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- reaching young people in their neighborhoods
- equipping them to grow into leaders
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