

July 2013

Dear Friends and Family,

We usually like to send out a letter in June, but these past two months have been quite busy and now we are at end of July. However, I realized that if I do not write something soon, then before I know it our baby will be here and that might be all you will hear about!

From Samantha

I enjoyed another year of preschool, but when June came around and summer vacation began I realized how much I love summer especially when the groups are here. It means sleeping in, staying up late, having youth nights and even helping to translate some. This summer a high school team came from Maranatha, and one of the leaders brought both of her kids. Jayden was 5 and Jackson was 3 just like Anthony and me. We had so much fun playing together. Anthony and I were able to show them the sports center and introduce them to all of our friends.

The next team that came down had one of my favorite people on it – Jennifer! She had lived with us two years ago and has come back the past two summers bringing teams with her. This year she brought her sister too. Their team did one of the most fun activities – they put on a fashion show for the girls in the community. They did one for the older girls and then a second one for the younger girls. Each of the girls was able to pick out a dress or a skirt and blouse and then model them in a fashion show for each other. I picked out a beautiful pink flowing dress! They ended each fashion show talking about how we find our true beauty in being a daughter of the King.

My favorite book to read right now is the Bible. Every night even if it is late I make sure that Mommy or Papi reads me at least one story out of the Bible. I enjoy hearing all of God's stories.

From Anthony

Whenever I hear the bell ring from the Ranchon, I know it is time to eat. I love having the groups here to play with, eat with and just hang out. Everyone on the teams seems to like playing tag with me so that has become one of my favorite games. Even though I am small, I like to think that I am big, so I try to hang out with the teams when they are doing their work projects. Lately, I have been out at the baseball field helping move dirt around. Halle has had lots of BIG dump trucks come by to dump dirt on the field. Mommy says all the dirt is to level out the whole field, but if you ask me it doesn't look very level with all those mounds of dirt on it. Oh well, I am sure Halle has a plan; he always does!

The last team that was here loved on me just like every other team, but at the end of their trip some of them were thinking about putting me in their suitcases to take me home with them. I was fine with it, but Mommy did not seem to like the idea. I think it might have to do with the fact that I start preschool in a couple of weeks and need to be here for that. I am really excited about going to school soon. A couple of months ago I went to preschool for one day just to visit; I had so much fun! I am also excited about the baby coming. I keep asking Mommy about the baby and when it is coming out. Mommy keeps saying she does not know when the baby will come. I think she just wants to surprise us.

From Thomas

The highlight of my last couple of months definitely was my trip to Denver to visit my brother-in-law, Luke. It was one of the best vacations I have ever had. I enjoyed hanging out with Luke, played golf for the first time, and went to the Wings over the Rockies Air and Space Museum.

Because of having a green card, I technically need to be in the States every six months but that has been hard to do financially and work-wise over the past number of years. This year, though, Amanda and I decided that we ought to look into applying for citizenship under a special clause for those married to a US citizen who is working abroad as a missionary. So this year I traveled to the States within six months of having left, and while I was there I sent in my citizenship application. I would SO appreciate your prayers for this process. For one, we have just found out that I will need to take another trip to the States just to have my fingerprints taken. Second, we have asked specifically that I be given an interview in December 2013 since we already have travel plans for those dates. Finally, we would like to be granted citizenship so that we can travel easily back and forth from Nicaragua to the States whenever we can and not feel obligated to travel based on requirements of keeping a green card. Thank you in advance for prayers!





My soccer league continues to go well, and I continue to enjoy building stronger friendships with the guys in the community. With the short-term teams that have come lately, we have started a new tradition – community dinners. In groups of twos or threes the team goes out into the community to have dinner in someone’s home. Some of the guys from my soccer team have been willing to host these dinners and have really enjoyed getting to know other high school-aged boys from the States. I know it can be a bit nerve wrecking at first for both sides especially with the language barrier, but every time we have done it the team always enjoys the experience and the families have had nothing but good things to say about it as well. What a great way to build new friendships!



From Amanda

The past two months have been busy here at the sports center. In June we welcomed Maranatha High School from Pasadena, CA for the sixth summer in a row. They were a fun group with lots of energy which was perfect for work projects like cutting down two mango trees where the pool will be going. Whenever they were not working, this team had pickup games of soccer and basketball going every afternoon with the kids and older youth. The leader of the team brought her husband and two children. My kids definitely loved having kids their own age to pal around with the whole week.



The second team that came was from Naples, Florida. One of the activities they dreamed up was putting on a fashion show for the girls in the community. It was a wonderful success with 19 girls ages 14 to 21 enjoying a chance to pick out a new outfit, model it for their friends and learn more about how God views them. It was such a success, and the group had brought so many dresses and outfits that we were able to do a second fashion show for 21 of the younger girls ages 6 to 13. Picking out outfits was a little harder for the younger ages, but in the end they enjoyed modeling their new clothes and many of their moms came to watch the show. It was a great chance to reach out just to the girls in our area.



The third team that came to work with us this summer was from Kirk of the Hills Church from Tulsa, OK. Right now we are working on a large project of leveling out the baseball field so this team ended up moving lots of dirt. In the afternoons they did crafts and Bible stories with the kids in the library as well as played soccer and football with the older youth. Overall, it has been a fun and energetic two months.



Each of the teams put on a youth group night as well as a game night for the older youth in the community. These activities really bring together the youth of our community. It is a great way for teams to interact with the youth as well as share about how God has worked in their lives. While we play games and do funny skits, we always end with a message about God’s love and how much He desires to be in relationship with them. The Kirk team performed two powerful mimes set to music that showed the power of Christ’s sacrifice for us and how deeply He loves us. My prayer each time we put on a youth night is that God continues to plant seeds in each of these youth’s hearts so that they would truly know, experience and believe in the love that He has for them.



Earlier I mentioned the idea of putting a pool in at the sports center. We have often been asked over the years by churches and other groups who use our facility when we are going to build a pool. Because of the expense of such a project, it has not been a high priority; however, just recently we have had some friends express a lot of interest in helping us raise the funds to build one. We received news in June that there is a foundation that is willing to match half the funding, and there is a group of young women from Texas who are working on raising the other half. We are excited about the prospect of teaching children and adults in our community how to swim and to provide a fun place to play on a hot afternoon.



The scholarship program continues to provide scholarships for many children and young adults. The most exciting news as of late has been paying for the final year for 6 university students. Ideally all of them will be finishing up this coming November and December. I am already anticipating the number of graduation invitations I am going to receive!



Finally for us as a family, we are looking forward to school starting again and of course the birth of our third child. We look forward to sending out some pictures of the newest member of our family once he or she decides to arrive! Seeking Him for life,



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