

May 28, 2010

Hello from Costa Rica! We hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying the Lord's blessings. We've just started a busy summer of work teams from churches in the US, so we wanted to write and let you know what we've been up to this spring. Also, please take a moment to browse the website to get more information and especially to see new pictures (be sure to check the Children's Home, Light of Hope and 2010 Pictures pages).

The biggest news has to do with our **Saturday kids' club in Los Guido**. Since late 2009, the municipal authorities have been threatening to force out families whose "housing paperwork" was not in order, even though the vast majority of residents there have no such papers. Despite the arbitrary nature of this decision, several families either left voluntarily or were pressured out. We were in prayer for this situation when, in February of this year, the very street on which our club sits was targeted. In a span of two days, five houses, including our kids' club, were dismantled. It was only by the intervention of Pastor Edgar that men from the church were allowed to **take down the club**, thus saving all the posters, photos, decorations, and building materials. It's an understatement to say this was a sad moment for us, even more so because some of our kids' houses were also destroyed. But we quickly felt God's peace and we kept meeting right there on the concrete slab as a witness to the community that the kids, not the building, are the club. In early April, though, another family was granted permission to build there, so we were forced to move. Pastor Edgar graciously offered us the space used for the feeding kitchen at the church, and we decided that it would be the **new home for the kids' club**. So for the past few weeks, we've been decorating the new space and each week we've had over fifty kids attend. We certainly miss those who had to leave and we pray God's protection over them wherever they may be, and at the same time we have been glad to welcome some new faces. This whole episode is a testimony to **God's faithfulness to His work**, and to the strength and peace He gives us. We ask that you continue to pray for this community and for our work there each week, and pray especially for those families who are still seeking housing.

In other news, **Will's year at the Seminary** has begun well. In March and April he taught a class on the New Testament to a group of new students, and it was great to get to know them and learn about their ministries. In May, as for the past few years, the Seminary hosted Dr. Billy Abraham for a week-long series of lectures. This year Billy brought a colleague along, and Will greatly enjoyed helping translate for them. Meanwhile, **Ella resumed her weekly English classes** for children in another sector of Los Guido. She had a number of new students this time around and, as always, she is grateful for the opportunity to teach them a mixture of English lessons and Bible stories. Since the classes are on break this summer, she'll pick back up in the fall.

As for the **Children's Home** construction project, things continue to progress quickly. In February and March we had the pleasure of welcoming back two church

teams from Michigan, and they did some great work at the site. We're now at the point of pouring floors in the first house, as well as pouring the top beams to prepare for roofing. It is wonderful to see such progress from week to week, and we look forward to all that the teams will accomplish this summer. We'll have three teams in late May and early June, two more in July, and possibly others later in the year. All of these are returning teams, and we're very thankful for their commitment to this project. Please continue to pray for the Children's Home in areas such as fund-raising, construction, and staffing, especially since we're getting close to seeing the first home finished and children placed there as early as next January.

As always, **we give thanks to God** for the chance to be in this beautiful country, serving the wonderful Costa Rican people. **We're grateful to all of you** who love and support us in different ways, through your prayers, your presence, and your gifts. We look forward to writing again soon and sharing all the new blessings and progress that this summer will have brought. Until then, we send you our prayers and deep thanks for being our partners in ministry.

In Christ,

Will and Ella