

# Dorman Family Update

October 2009

Hello everyone. It has been quite a while since we have sent out an update letter, so we ask you to forgive us for not staying in touch as well as we should. There have been many changes for our family as of late.

We are now in Costa Rica, preparing to begin working with an orphanage here in Atenas, Costa Rica. We arrived just a week ago, having just finished perhaps the busiest 8 weeks of our lives making arrangements for this move. We had hoped to get a letter out before we left, but with the craziness of the preparations, along with Michelle being chosen to serve on a very intense jury for 6 weeks, we are only now able to get a letter out to everyone

After moving back from Colorado 2½ years ago, we have been busy with life and seeking where the Lord might use us. Grant has been working with Caltrans, which has been an unexpected blessing for our family. In the meantime, and through relationships we have had with Engineering Ministries International (eMi) and their office in Costa Rica (formally Guatemala), our family has been able to serve two other ministries in Costa Rica, one being a local church here in Atenas, and the other being a local Orphanage, called Hogar de Vida [www.homesoflife.org](http://www.homesoflife.org).

In early 2008, our friend Tom Bastian, an architect and director of eMi Latina, asked Grant to come down and survey the 7 acre site of the orphanage. During that trip, Grant met Pastor Oldemar, the pastor of a local church at which the folks at the orphanage attend. Pastor Oldemar was looking for a solution for several code violations which the city officials had cited them for, one of which was the need for handicap accessible restrooms. Our local church in Nipomo, CA was able to provide a team to go down with funds and start the construction of the bathrooms. William was able to go with Grant on this trip with the team from New Beginnings Church over spring break 2008. For two weeks last November, our whole family was able to go and volunteer at Hogar de Vida.

About 5 months ago, the folks at Hogar de Vida asked us if we would consider spending the next year down here working and living onsite. Grant would serve as a "Property Manager" while the Directors are on a 12 month furlough for the Calendar year of 2010. Our family sought the direction of the Lord and sought the counsel of those around us. We felt the Lord opening the door for us to take one step forward at a time toward this opportunity. He has graciously continued to open doors, each one confirming the call to come down here and serve in this capacity. As the Property Manager at Hogar de Vida Grant will be in charge of working with two Costa Rican men to maintain the existing facilities, as well as the building of future facilities.

After returning from Colorado, we have been hoping and waiting for a way that our entire family could serve the people of Latin America directly. The Lord has been faithful to provide this wonderful opportunity where Michelle will have ministry opportunities through relationships with the house moms (called Tias here), as well as our children being a ministry to the kids at the orphanage. While our commitment for this position is a year, we are excited to see how the Lord will guide our family during this time and the time to come.

Many of the children arrive at Hogar de Vida completely destitute, without a family's care or the basic provisions that so many people in the world take for granted. They are often the victims of abuse or neglect. While it is called an orphanage and some are orphans, most are still wards of the state due to the abuse and neglect. The hope is for these children to be re-united with their parents. This is almost more difficult because the older kids know their parents and see other kid's parents visit while their own parents do not.

Our family arrived in Atenas, Costa Rica a week ago and we are all doing well. The home we are staying in is such a blessing and we really couldn't ask for more. The kids are excited about learning Spanish and are stepping out with an occasional "Buenos dias" or "Hola". Please pray for them as they are in this time of transition with so many new things surrounding them, i.e. food, culture, language.

So while we are working directly with Hogar de Vida, we will be officially under the authority of eMi. This is for many reasons; one being our existing relationships with eMi, and also for accountability while Tim and Dena Stromstad, the Directors of Hogar de Vida, are on furlough. Grant will begin working at the orphanage in December. For the rest of October and November, Michelle and Grant will be alternating mornings and afternoons taking Spanish classes. Please pray that the Lord uses this short time of only 7 weeks to give us the necessary Spanish to begin our time here.

We want to thank everyone who has helped with the huge undertaking of getting our family off on this endeavor and we also express our thanks in advance for those who are keeping us going. We are truly blessed by your support and prayers.

Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, or change how you receive our updates, i.e. mail vs. email. If you would like information on how you can support us, how we can be praying for you or to just say hi, please email us at [grantdorman@gmail.com](mailto:grantdorman@gmail.com).

Blessings from Costa Rica, the Dorman Family

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Photos from Costa Rica