

# Stromstad News

2010 - Sabbatical year for our family - 2010

## *Dena's Details*

Seems like just yesterday Tim and I boarded a plane for Haiti; but, it was July 1988. That year in Haiti confirmed a long term calling on our lives for missions. That road took us to Guatemala in October of 1990 where we adopted Ben and Josh. They just celebrated their 18th birthday. In January of 1995 God brought us to Costa Rica where we were gifted with Maria (turned 14 in October) and now after 20+ years of time and energy well vested God is granting us sabbatical year in the U.S.



Tim, Maria, Ben, Dena and Josh Stromstad

So, God has directed us to Jacksonville, FL where we will be living close to my parents. Maria will go to school in English and the boys will start college in the fall. We'll be leaving Costa Rica Jan. 2010 with plans to return Jan 2011, "si Dios quiere," if God wills, a frequently heard saying here. It would be a lie to say the preparation has been easy. I have been in somewhat of a grief process this whole year. But God has daily sustained me, brought all the puzzle pieces together and there is GREAT peace.

In 1975 my parents returned from Papua New Guinea to the U.S. I was 12 at the time and after being born and raised on the island, the transition wasn't easy. What God used to help me walk through those years was a strong, godly family. Since Ben and Josh have never lived in the states and desire to go to college there, my mother's heart desires to be there for them in the transition.

I have officially given the directorship to Helen Smith and will be present to help answer questions or serve her in any way I can until Jan. Now my focus is to finish up 12th grade with Ben and Josh, hopefully get Maria's braces off soon and pack up our house. We will spend the holidays in Guatemala. We hope to see many of you while we are stateside. For some it has been many years since we were face to face.

### *Stromstad Financial Support :*

Children of Promise International  
6844 Loop Road  
Centerville, OH 45459

Please make your check payable to COPI and attach a note stating the support is for the Stromstads

### *Address for 2010:*

Tim & Dena Stromstad c/o Brian Hunt  
1601 Otis Road Jacksonville, FL 32220

Stromstad E-Mail: [Tim70x7@gmail.com](mailto:Tim70x7@gmail.com)

Hogar de Vida Web: [www.homesoflife.org](http://www.homesoflife.org)

## *Tim's Tidbits*

As you just read from Dena's sharing, we as a family are preparing for a one year sabbatical in the United States.

Dena had felt the Lord leading us to spend 2010 in the states for a few years now. I resisted for months until finally the Lord got through my thick skull that He was truly leading us to the states for a Sabbatical year!!

So what does that mean for the Stromstads??

- Turning over the directorship of Hogar de Vida in Costa Rica and not hosting teams in Guatemala!
- Prayerfully starting to write our life story and all that the Lord has done!
- Total change and resting
- Acquiring Maria's United States citizenship.
- Helping our boys adjust to life in the United States with all the details of young adulthood: drivers licenses, cars, jobs, college applications, and finally college in the fall.
- Investing time with family. Attending weddings of two of my nephews and one niece. I was asked to officiate Caleb's wedding! What an honor!
- Celebrating my folks' 60th wedding anniversary with a big party in Minnesota in July
- Visiting churches while we are doing some cross country traveling and sightseeing
- Spending some time at the Jacksonville, Florida International House of Prayer!
- Making memories like visiting Flight Museums before our boys are off on their own.

## *Finale*

Following after Jesus. That is the reason we do what we do. Thank you for each and every way that you support and love us. We would not be here without you. Hope to see you in 2010!

May the Prince of Peace fill your hearts and homes. *Tim, Dena, Josh, Ben and Maria*

## *Benjamin*

Some people may not know that my family is heading to the States for a year, and while it may be a sabbatical for my parents, for my bro and me it's just four more years of school at college. I have to finish high school, get my drivers license, do my SAT, and pack for the move; so many things to do, and yet, I don't worry but "stress less". Personally, I am excited about moving, about having a college experience and studying. I am interested in studying Criminal Justice, although my long term goal and dream is to join the Marine Corps, I'm praying for God's will in my life and striving to follow him.

## *Joshua*

I'm looking forward to being in the States and starting a new kind of life. I am sad to go, yet in a positive way, I am anxious for what God has in store for me. The memories I have made in Costa Rica will forever be engraved in my Heart and Soul. It will be hard to go, but we must say good-bye for now and take the next step in Life.

## *Maria*

I'm busy with final exams for eighth grade and spending as much time as I can with my friends. I will miss everything about my life in Costa Rica. I am not really looking forward to next year in the states, God knows why He does stuff that we really don't like. It is His plan to do this and I'll trust His plan even if it's hard.

## *Prayer concerns and requests*

- *Pray that all of the many details of turning over ministry responsibilities and packing are accomplished in a calm, orderly fashion.*
- *Pray for a successful end of the school year for Ben, Josh and Maria.*
- *Pray for Maria as she leaves her beloved Costa Rica and her circle of friends and lives in a "foreign" culture in the states for a year.*
- *Pray the Lord of the harvest expands our financial support base as the cost of living in the states is higher than Costa Rica.*