

STROMSTAD SABBATICAL NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Info

Maria:

MARIA'S CITIZENSHIP

- we have run into many obstacles and frustrations
- very costly
- we are currently waiting to hear from the Department of Homeland Security for biographic data, fingerprinting and then an interview
- please PRAY!

She is doing well in 9th grade and Auntie Amy is one of her teachers!

Ben & Josh: PRAY FOR THEM!

- preparation physically, emotionally and spiritually
- jobs to earn money for college
- shopping for school supplies and a new wardrobe
- separation from family, branching out on their own
- making new friends, reaching out, establishing routine
- Looking to Jesus, building on the foundation they've heard for years

Write & Call em!

Ben:

PCC Box 1787
250 Brent Lane
Pensacola, FL 32503-2280
(850)476-8000 17-6425-4
bstrom0357@students.pcci.edu

Josh:

PCC Box 1827
250 Brent Lane
Pensacola, FL 32503-2280
(850)476-8000 17-6316-4
jstrom6337@students.pcci.edu

Tim's latest

When we began to ponder a sabbatical year well over two years ago, we had no idea what that would look like. We knew we wanted to help Ben and Josh as they began to adapt to life in the U. S. and establish themselves in college, get counseling, rest from our Homes of Life responsibilities, get Maria's U.S. citizenship, reconnect with family and friends, spend time in the presence of the Lord and let God teach, refresh, train and heal our hearts and souls in preparation for whatever lies ahead.

The Lord has been speaking to me about this being the time to restore my soul. For example, in Psalm 23, The Lord is our Shepherd we have no need of anyone else. He "LEADS" me beside still waters. He

"MAKES" me lie down in green pastures. HE RESTORES my soul. See the process. He leads and then He makes me lie down. I had never really meditated on that before. What if I need to run around or fix

this or go there? HE LEADS and MAKES me lie down. This is the season to do that. Then, as I obey the Lord, my soul gets restored.



Ohhh ... You Know... It's the farm!

From Dena's Heart

The Lord has spoken clearly to me as to what this year is about. It comes from a portion of a prayer by Graham Cooke. "This next season, everything will start to fall into place for you. Only look at everything through the eyes and a heart of a trusting child. You are My special treasure, my precious one. I have set this next phase of your journey aside for the purpose of you walking in simplicity and adoration of Me...enjoy!" In

addition the Lord has given me a scripture that confirms what He is speaking to my heart and defines my purpose for this time. Phil 3:1,8,9,10 "For the rest, my brethren, delight yourselves in the Lord and continue to rejoice that you are in Him....Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme

advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord....And that I may be found and known as in Him....For my determined purpose is that I may know Him (that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly..." (Amp)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Maria's citizenship paperwork
- continued provision for living expenses
- provision for the boys' education
- traveling mercies on our trip to NY
- direction for further training

SUPPORT US VIA:

Children of Promise International

6844 Loop Rd.
Centerville, OH 45459-2159

Attn: Stromstad Support

[http://www.promise.org/donations/
PayPal_donations.htm](http://www.promise.org/donations/PayPal_donations.htm)

<http://www.homesoflife.org/donate.htm>

RECONNECT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- love living close to Dena's family
- had a great visit to the farm and saw all of Tim's family
- driving to and from MN were able to touch base with Dena's family and saw many friends
- planning a trip to NY in the fall
- relationships are so very important and it has been a great joy to see so many friends and family

PRESENCE OF GOD:

- daily devotions and worship time
- retreat at Trinity church in Omaha
- great local church where we are established
- International House of Prayer Jacksonville almost weekly
- Christian Healing Ministry for prayer and ministry

REST:

- The release of Hogar de Vida Costa Rica was difficult and took time, but so necessary
- Helen and staff are doing a great job, we knew they would
- Home of Life Guatemala continues strong



Pensacola Christian College

As most of you know, the primary reason for taking a full year furlough at this time is to get the twins established at PCC. Having home schooled the boys through high school, it is now time for them to launch out on their own. We wanted to be here in the States for this important transition. Cutting them loose has proven to be one of the most difficult adjustments we've had to make as parents. We took

Ben and Josh down to Pensacola, got them moved into their rooms, took them shopping one last time and shared hugs, prayers and lots of tears before we got in the car and drove home. They got registered for classes, bought their books and started school on the 8th of September. They aren't rooming together but are only one floor away. They are both routine oriented so the initial adjustment will be the hardest until they get settled. We heard from them frequently in the first week, now less. They are taking a junior level class inside of their criminal justice major and that is proving to be a lot of work. They have joined a collegian, called the Vikings, and are getting to know other students from several different nations. They are putting their Spanish to good use too. We still have tears but the empty feeling is passing. God is faithful and we're confident they and we will take this new challenge in stride by God's grace and enabling power.

Blessings from our home to yours,

Tim, Dena, Ben, Josh and Maria