

Dear Brothers and Sister,

Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow! I can't believe I'm almost through my time in Costa Rica. I pray weekly, that God would bless you and draw you near to Him. He loves us so much and wants us to be at His feet.

How I wish that were an easy thing to do, to always be at His feet. I find at times that I'm so engrossed in what I'm doing that it has been days since I sat at His feet and soaked in what He is trying to tell me.



Chapel at ILE



Children's Parade on Independence Day



Bible School for children of ILE students during Spiritual Emphasis Week

My time in Costa Rica has been an emotional, spiritual, and physical roller coaster ride. Sometimes the track is up and then down, but other times, like a month ago, it is doing loop to loops. Those who know me well know that I don't do roller coasters. Since being in Costa Rica the enemy has tried all kinds of ways to get me to give up and God continues to show me how much He loves me and holds me in His hands. By the end of the first week, I was on the edge of depression. Every day it had rained from noon till into the night. I live in a tico home with a tin roof. I had not made any friends yet, I knew no Spanish, and my tico mother knew no English. I was drawn to pray all week that God would put a shield against depression around me. He is always faithful! The depression lifted and has not returned.

Being at the Instituto de Lengua Espanol has been a rich environment for sharing with others about what God is doing. My classmates are missionaries heading to various Spanish speaking countries. God has called each of us to a specific country. God is doing amazing things in Latin America and Satan doesn't want any of us to succeed in what we are doing and going to be doing. In this environment, the spiritual warfare is strong and intense. There is not one family here at the institute that has not experienced many road blocks since getting to Costa Rica: health, deaths, and behavior issues with children adjusting to so many changes in their lives. God's faithfulness in bringing His word to life within us brings great peace and comfort. In I John 4:1-4, the apostle John reminds us of the spiritual battle we are engaged in AND that the One who in us is greater than the one who is in the world. Gracias A'Dios!

Learning another language has been a challenge. It is slowly happening, but don't expect me to be speaking fluent Spanish when I see you again. It has helped me to know that even students who have been here for a year still struggle with understanding those who speak Spanish as their mother language. They speak so rapidly and join their words together differently than we do in English. It is often difficult for me to identify individual words within their sentences. I actually speak more than I understand and that isn't much. I am however, learning a lot about how the language is structured. I now understand why a year of language study is recommended. However, language study for a year in Costa Rica is not in God's plan for me. Praise the Lord; He has provided a Spanish teacher in Belize who has agreed to tutor me once I'm there, so I will have the opportunity to continue learning this beautiful language.

Prayer Requests:

- That I will retain the many verbs that are the backbone of the Spanish language. There are over 500 of them. I'm focusing on the most used ones.
- That I will be able to keep my study of God's Word priority. It is so easy to be consumed by learning Spanish and lose sight of why I am learning Spanish.

- That I would see the opportunities God puts in front of me to minister to others wherever I am.
- That I will have safe travel over the months ahead.
- That I will be able to make the connections I need to while in the US prior to returning to Belize.
- That God will reveal my sins and open my heart to all He wants me to learn while in Belgium for Pre-Field Training (Jan. 11-Feb. 9).
- That the teachers in Belize will be able to complete their assignments by their deadlines.
- For the teachers who are considering enrolling in PTEC (Presbyterian Teacher Education College) for this coming year.

I thought you might like to see a few of the pictures of Costa Rica. It is a beautiful country. I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to come study Spanish in such a beautiful place.



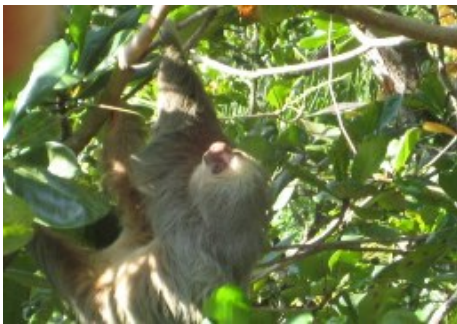
One of four waterfalls at Lapaz Waterfalls Garden



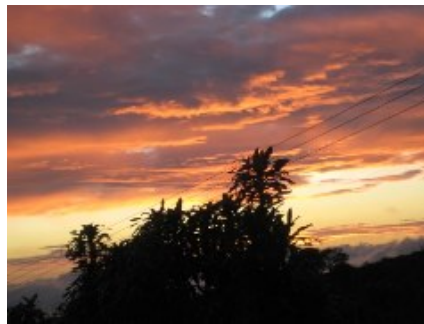
Toucan at Lapaz Waterfalls Garden



Wild Phaladopsis Orchids



Three-toed Sloth



Sunset in Costa Rica

God Bless,

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