

San José, Costa Rica



WE FINALLY MADE IT!

“Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.” (Isaiah 64:4) ... Wow! We waited, you prayed, God acted, many people and churches gave, and now we are here in Costa Rica—learning the Spanish language and Latin American culture in preparation for missionary service with HCJB World Radio in Ecuador.

We can't say that we “waited on the Lord” perfectly. Rather, we found ourselves learning how to wait on the Lord in the new circumstance of raising prayer and financial support. God worked through our successes and in spite of our failures to bring us here. All praise and honour belongs to Him!

Costa Rica is a beautiful country, manifesting the glory of God's creation. Fortunately, we don't have to study all the time, and have gone exploring on a few weekends. In the photo above, we are standing at the edge of the main crater of Volcán Poas, one of many volcanoes in the country. Nelson wasn't so sure about sitting on the edge of a railing near a cliff, even with Mommy holding him!

So how are we adjusting to life in Costa Rica? No doubt, we started out handicapped, having just gone through a very busy, stressful time preparing to come here. Just this past weekend, Brent awoke in the middle of the night, reliving that time in his dreams as well as feeling present stresses, which led him to get up, pray and cast his cares upon the Lord. Most of the time, we enjoy the language learning and cultural adaptation. But the combined pressures of personal / family responsibilities, Spanish studies, communicating with family, friends and supporters in North America, and just being “missionaries” at times feels overwhelming. This is testing our relationships with God and with each other.

So please continue to pray for us. We cannot run this race alone. We esteem your friendship, prayers and financial support as we continue to serve the Lord together.

In Jesus' Name,

Brent + Shelly
P.S. ¡Feliz NAVIDAD!

Family News

- Trevor has quickly made new friends at school. Although timid with a new language, bit by bit, he is making friends with Spanish boys in our neighbourhood and in our church.
- Nelson: ‘It’s Bbbbrrr ... it’s Bbbrr ... oh I don’t know, my mouth can’t say it!’ (rolling ‘B’ like a Spanish ‘R’ trying to say ‘broken’)
- Malcolm is learning Spanish and English at the same time. He’s always saying ‘Hola!’
- Brent and Shelley are learning Spanish grammar and vocabulary ... now if only we could speak Spanish!

Our Story

Either in churches or through a series of mailing in July, many of you will have heard the story of how Shelley’s Mom came to trust in Jesus: As a mother of two small children (before Shelley came on the scene), she was spinning the dial on her radio one day when she stumbled on *Back to the Bible*, a program her mother used to listen to. The familiarity of the program and the theme song *Tell me the Story of Jesus* kept her listening day after day until she accepted Jesus.

Curiously, no one else in the town could pick up this station, and soon after, the station faded out for her as well. But God had miraculously used Christian radio to reach her, and through her, her family. We thank and serve God because of this.

Prayer and Praise

- We praise God for providing for us and giving us the opportunity to learn Spanish in preparation for service in Ecuador.
- Please pray for Shelley’s Mom, as she needs further radiation treatment in January.
- Pray that we will depend more on the Lord, and less on ourselves, as we face the decisions and pressures of this phase of life, learning and ministry.

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Church News

- We are attending the *Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace)* church in San José. It is mostly a Spanish congregation, although there are a number of missionaries attending the church.
- Shelley and Brent have been taking turns playing bass guitar in the worship band. At the practice, one plays while the other writes the songs (and chords!) down.
- Brent thinks he is starting to understand a lot of the adult Sunday School lessons and even tried out his Spanish in class last week. Shelley is not feeling quite so confident yet.

Our Financial Support

- This summer we worked with an organization called Kainos to finish our support raising.
- Adding pledges made to Kainos to prior support and pledges, we reached 108% of monthly support pledged or coming in now. **However**, 20% was pledged by a foundation a couple of years ago, and thus far, this foundation has not been able to fulfill its pledges. Based on current advisement from our personnel director, we need to say that we only have **88%** of our monthly support.
- Numerous people have given one time or occasionally. We thank God for this and trust that He will continue to move people to help this way, or even commit to monthly support.
- **If you made a pledge**, but are uncertain about where to send your donations, please send them to the *Support address* given below, designating your gift for *Brent and Shelley Weeks*. Make checks payable to *WRMF in Canada*. If you would like to use automatic monthly withdrawals, please ask for a form from the same address.
- **Thank you very much**, to all of you who have given to HCJB World Radio in support of our ministry.