

Twin Peaks

From the Padilla-DeBorst

December 2008

On our way

Fall reds and oranges have turned to winter freeze in Cambridge. And the countdown is accelerating! As we join in counting days until a historical Presidential inauguration on January 20th, our family is also counting down to the day after. On January 21st we fly from Boston to Costa Rica to begin a new phase of life and ministry there.

Good-byes to good people and good places are never easy. Leaving Maya back at Calvin College, in Michigan, tearing ourselves away from our church community at St James, letting go of friends, and putting more miles between us and much of our family are all tough steps. There also is much anticipation as we move into a new country, school, neighborhood, church and work in a place we will learn to make ours. Between now and departure-day there is ever so much to decide and get done! We appreciate your prayers for each one of us in this process. Also, for a place to 'land' and spend the first few months in San José until we find a more permanent home.

What will you be doing?

That is the question we most hear these days. So here are some brief answers:

- Maya will continue her freshman year at Calvin.
- Anton, Jonathan, Maria Isabel, Luana and Natalia will attend the Colegio Europeo, a small, bilingual school where lunches are organic and where Costa Rican classmates are blended in with kids from around Latin America, Europe, Asia and North America.
- Jim will continue teaching in Eastern University's International Development MA and in other programs, and contributing to the Institute I will be facilitating.
- I will be initiating the Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education while still accompanying Seeds of New Creation's training ministry in El Salvador, promoting theological reflection through the Latin American Theological

On this Christmas, can we celebrate the God who gave not things but Self away by doing the same?

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGES!!!!

Address until January 21

66 Orchard Street, Cambridge, MA 02140 – (617) 864-1425

Address after January 21:

Apartado 349-1002, San José, Costa Rica

Ruth CRWM: rpadilla-deborst@crcna.org

Jim: jpadilladeborst@gmail.com

Padilla DeBorst family: jimruthpdb@gmail.com

Fellowship, directing Ediciones Certeza publishing house, and preparing comprehensive exams for Boston University.

As the months go by, we look forward to sharing more with you regarding all these matters.

What is this “Institute for... Higher Education” deal?

Let me ask you: Does being a Christian make any difference in the way you carry out your studies, your work, your profession? Does it in any way mark what you do, how you do it, who you do it for? And, is your community, neighborhood or workplace any less violent, abusive, or unjust because there are people living there who follow the Prince of Peace?

Well, the Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education that we will be initiating for Latin America will work to strengthen a learning community of students, professors, and institutions in Latin America that want to live as members of God’s kingdom and to pursue God’s justice in the area of higher education (college and up) and through their professions. These men and women will provide leadership to their local churches as they contribute to the transformation of their societies. CRWM will be working with groups and people who have been seeking these same goals for years (the

LATF, UNELA, IAPCHE and the CIEE -all acronyms I will explain in future newsletters!).

Needs along the way

I’ve been serving in Latin America since 1991 with CRWM. Many of you have supported me during my student work with Neal out of Ecuador, my loss in 1997 and remarriage in 2000, the new ministry of Seeds of New Creation with Jim in El Salvador, and our study assignment in Cambridge, MA. As we now begin a new phase of life and ministry, we need to increase significantly the financial support that comes through CRWM. An increase of \$2,000/month is needed to reach the goal. It’s expensive to get all seven of us to Costa Rica and set up life there! We also need to raise funds for a car with which to get around once we’re there. In addition, the projects of the Institute and Seeds of New Creation depend on your donations. So please prayerfully consider adding us to your giving list or stepping up what you are already giving. Feel free to clip the form at the foot of the page and mail it to CRWM: 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560. Thanks!

Ever grateful for your prayers, fellowship, financial support and partnership in God’s love,

*Ruth and Jim Padilla-DeBorst
with Maya, Anton, Jonathan
Maria, Luana and Natalia*

I would like to help CRWM transform lives and communities worldwide by contributing to the following project(s):

- Here is my gift of \$ _____ towards the purchase of a car for the Padilla DeBorsts in Costa Rica
- Here is my gift of \$ _____ to be used for Ruth and Jim Padilla DeBorst (WM-802106)
- Here is my gift of \$ _____ to be used for the grants to the Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Latin America (Costa Rica)
- Here is my gift of \$ _____ to be used for the grants to Seeds of New Creation – El Salvador
- Please send me information about Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT).
- Giving via Credit Card by mail [or call: 800-346-0075 (USA) 800-730-3490 (Canada)]

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www.crwm.org/donate

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