

Twin Peaks

From the Padilla-DeBorst

September 2008

June 5, 2008- Mom and Dad DeBorst celebrate Jim's Graduation as a Master in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Gypsy life

September finally finds us back at 66 Orchard, in Cambridge, with most of our bags, books and papers unpacked. It is good to be back home after a summer of gypsy life. Family visits, home service with Christian Reformed World Missions, teaching and speaking carried us to South Africa (Jim in July, with Eastern University), Nicaragua, El Salvador (Ruth in May and August, Maria for most of the summer), New Mexico (Jonathan and Anton, hiking with the scouts), Chicago, Grand Rapids, Denver (Sea-to-Sea rally and Luana and Natalia with Eldrenkamp family), Toronto (Practicing Resurrection Conference) and Boston (Maya, working). We were privileged to visit churches, family and friends along the way: we thank everyone who so graciously hosted us, and we apologize for those we missed!

A bitter-sweet August day

He was ready. At 81, having battled cancer for two years, and unable to be his usual, sociable self, Jim's dad, James DeBorst, "Pop" departed peacefully from our world on August 29th. We are grateful we were still in the USA and able



to get to Grand Rapids and join the rest of the family for visitation, service and funeral. Although we did manage, between tears, to lead those in attendance in one of Pop's favorites "*We shall overcome one day,*" and we *do* believe it, it is the rest of us who are not totally ready to let go. So we appreciate your prayers, your expressions of support, and your wise counsel as we step ahead without him, and figure out how to best accompany "Nana," who will be coming to stay with us in Cambridge this very week.

In memoriam

James Henry De Borst crossed over the Jordan on August 29, 2008, and went home to his Lord. For 53 years he traveled with his wife Julia (Dykstra) De Borst. Together they raised two children; loyal daughter, Elizabeth Hitchcock (Craig), and vagabond son, James Padilla DeBorst (Ruth).

A consummate storyteller, he taught thousands through his classroom narratives, first at local Christian high schools and then at Calvin College. While teaching at Calvin he devoted considerable energy fighting to shape the institution's direction while serving on committee assignments. Upon his retirement, he regaled friends and strangers alike with stories of his eight grandchildren, Daniel (Tracy), and Sarah Vander Heide, and Maya,

Anton, Jonathan, Maria, Luana, and Natalia De Borst. When he wasn't in the class or committee room he could be found on the deck of his cottage on Lake Michigan--telling stories. It is there that his family remembers him at his best. (Extracted from obituary).



A mug of the Association for a More Just Society (www.ajshonduras.org) was an a propos gift for Pop on his 81st Birthday.

Full steam ahead!

A new school year is underway, with all its new joys and challenges. For now, the greatest change is the one Maya is experiencing: Today she had her first class at Calvin College! We moved her in last week and she is now on her own. Of course, neither she nor we mind the fact that she has a lot of relatives in town although she will sorely miss not having Pop around!

For the rest of us, the Fall semester is one of preparation for years to come. Jonathan now joins Anton at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. Maria Isabel and Luana continue Middle School and Natalia Elementary at their bilingual Amigos School. At the end of September, Jim and I will go down to Costa Rica to line up schools and home for our

January '09 move. While Jim does research on International Development with one of his old Harvard professors and holds down the PDB fort, I will be focusing on building contacts and a partnership base for the new Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education as well as visiting churches and personal supporters and studying for a first Comprehensive Exam.

If any of you is interested in talking further about the Institute, or willing to support our ministry in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us. Here is my travel schedule for the fall. It would be great to connect during this time, and I would appreciate prayer for the following:

- September 18-25: Grand Rapids, MI.
- October 13-19: Miami, FL. Latin American Regional Planning Meetings with Christian Reformed World Missions and visit South Kendall Community Church.
- October 23-25: Waco, TX. Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture: Bottom-up Approaches to Global Poverty.
- October 26-28: La Paz, Bolivia, for the General Assembly of the Latin American Theological Fellowship.
- November 14-17: Quito, Ecuador. Langham Partnership International Regional Council.

We are also looking forward to hosting family and friends in our Cambridge home. Last call for all interested! Bookings still available!

With gratitude,

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

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