

Update from COSTA RICA

February 2006

We want to thank you for walking with us last year. Your friendship and support in ministry have been important to us and the fruit we are seeing here in Costa Rica really is fruit of the team effort that you also have an important part in. Last year was a year of change, challenge and growth for us as we took big steps of faith moving to Guanacaste. God kept us waiting for the right doors to open for four months, until we found a house. Now we know where we will live, but continue in the same process of trust and growth as we are taking first steps in pioneering a new ywam ministry here in the north of Costa Rica. We want to invite you to continue partnering with us to see God's dreams come true for the men, women and children of Guanacaste. We will need your continuous prayer and financial support.

NOVEMBER 2005 – Trip to the US

In November we had the opportunity to travel to the US for two weeks. The main purpose of the trip was to represent YWAM Heredia at Youth Specialities Conference in Nashville. There we presented short-term outreach opportunities to youth workers that are interested in bringing groups down to Costa Rica. We were also able to visit friends, churches and supporters in three different states. Thank you for those of you who so warmly received us and blessed us in many ways!

New home – new challenges

After four months of looking for a home we were quite discouraged and confused. We felt God calling us to move here, but doors were not opening. Were we moving out of God's timing? After praying we



set a limit; if by that date we had not found anything, we would go back to Heredia. The last day we found the house where we live now. It

is rented, but we are raising funds to buy a property for us as a family in the same area. The house is big and good, but it is pretty strange (picture). We have had to change things and do lot of cleaning and painting. The village is beautiful, small countryside village with 15 families. We are located about 30 min. northeast from the town of Nicoya. We will be working in many different communities in the whole peninsula of Nicoya. We can be confident that we are in the place God wants us, since ALL the other doors closed. We feel God has kept us on the path He has prepared for us with a purpose.

The first big ministry project we are now working on is the coordination and distribution of 8000 gift boxes for children all over Guanacaste. This is part of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We trained 95 local churches to do the distribution of the gifts, using them as a tool for evangelism, making sure the gifts go to the most needy and non-saved children. The churches also need to make a commitment to give follow-up to these same children. Last week we received the container, stored all the boxes in one church (picture) and now we are distributing the gifts with the right amounts of girls and boys to the churches. It is a big project, but we trust that many children find Jesus through these boxes.



In Costa Rica the school year begins in February. We continue home schooling with Finnish curriculum, but Troy is also going to the public school in our home village. The school is right next-door and all together it has 7 students for grades 1-6. The level of education is not very good, but culturally and socially we feel it is important they attend to a local school. In the afternoons Troy often joins Diego in the soccer practises. Julia is going to

pre-school in the neighbour village and she has also started ballet classes in Nicoya.

The move has been a big change for the children. Especially



Troy still misses his friends and school from Heredia. At the same time they are still excited about living here, enjoying the country life with horses and nature.

Diego continues with soccer ministry, right now he is coaching and discipling 3 different teams and there is lot of interest in many other communities. He is making preparations to take an outreach team from here to Europe in June. He is also looking for sponsors for the ministry to help cover the cost of transportation and equipment. Through the afternoons spent on the soccer fields with young men God has given him more insight into the common strongholds and spiritual needs here. The boys are often full of anger and resentment, they treat each other horribly. There are no opportunities for work, education or free time activities. What is left for them is alcohol and women. Growing up in this kind of environment it is very hard for them to maintain stable family life after they get married. They continue their habits till they have a broken family and their children grow up with the same problems. They need Jesus!

Salla is preparing to start the maternity project here in Guanacaste. We are planning on opening a home for pregnant girls to live in 2008. For now we are starting to work with local churches in several communities to run the 8-week maternity courses followed with discipleship and other courses. The ministry here will be different, since the girls are totally spread out all over the countryside, so there will be lot of travelling. The first community were we will start the course is in Cañas, one hour away from where we live.

We are also preparing ministry for two teams that we will receive this year, we are making a plan for teaching English as a second language in many villages, we are travelling to visit churches and pastors to get to know them and their needs. There are many projects on our minds for the future, but

now the priority is to recruit staff. We are praying to have a team of 5 people working here in Guanacaste with us by the beginning of next year. We are praying for God to call the right people with real passion, commitment and calling to this area. Now that we have a stable place we are also ready to have people come.

Financial need:

We feel we are to purchase land and build a house here or to buy a house for us as a family. First option is cheaper, second is easier and faster. To buy a piece of land we are still missing \$ 6000 and for a construction of a house \$ 30 000. To buy a house we need \$65 000 cash. We want to share this need with you so that you would first of all pray with us for God's provision and His guidance and wisdom in the decisions we make. As our supporters we also want to challenge you to pray and ask God if there is any amount that He would want you to help with for this purpose. Even small contributions are valuable.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Thank God for the house
- Pray for Troy and Julia as they adjust to the change, new environment and new schools
- Pray that God would send us 5 staff members this year
- Pray for the existing ministries (gift boxes, soccer, maternity)
- Pray for future plans and ministries, and the outreach teams coming this year
- Thank God for a good trip to the States

Thank you for all your prayers and support!
Blessings in Jesus' name,

Diego, Salla, Troy and Julia Silva

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for sending financial support:

**Send a check written out to YWAM to:
YWAM El Paso, 4444 Edgar Park Ave, El
Paso, TX 79904, USA. On a separate**

**paper write: for the support of Diego
Silva**