



Jeff & Diane Brown to Venezuela with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

"The Browns Prayer Community"

We have a growing Community in the US to support our family and our work in the most important way possible -- praying. The commitment is to pray for us and our work at least once a week. Sue Thomsen is the Servant-Administrator. If you would like to join, contact Sue at; 7650 Cross Creek Cr., Lincoln, NE or E mail; glsrthomsen@juno.com. She will give you the name of one of our nine prayer contact people around the country. That person will inform you in case of emergency or special prayer needs. You will then receive our quarterly prayer letters in addition to the BROWNEWS.

"The Big Picture"

Lest we lose track here..... On our way to becoming Support Team Leader in Caracas, Venezuela, we are studying Spanish for a year in San Jose, Costa Rica, in order to manage missionary business affairs and help start church planting movements without need of an interpreter.

"A Little About San Jose, Costa Rica"

San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, is a city of about one million people. Although there is more pollution and less green than we are used to, the people are extraordinarily nice; we can stop anyone at any time and ask them all kinds of unintelligible questions in what we hope is Spanish, and they are patient, warm, and good-humored. In the downtown area, if you closed your ears you would swear you were in San Francisco, particularly the Chinatown area. It's a little nostalgic. We will be vacationing on the Pacific coast with friends for the Christmas break, so we will tell you about the west part of the country after that trip.

"It Takes a Village..."

In each issue we want to highlight the contributions of some of our friends. It takes a community of people to successfully move a family from the United States to serve God in a foreign country.

James Atherton, pastor of The Bridge church in San Francisco, for serving as prayer facilitator/contact person in our Prayer Community, among our San Francisco church community, keeping us in God's ears.

Bruce & Barb Barber of Warrensburg, Illinois, for buying our Mercury Topaz before we moved to San Francisco for seminary eleven months ago. It is amazing how taking stuff off our hands can at times be as big a help as giving us stuff we need.

Rob Bass of Columbus, Nebraska, for serving as prayer facilitator/contact person in our Prayer Community among the prayers scattered in far-flung and isolated places around the US such as Ridgecrest CA and Wahoo NE (yes, that is a real town)

Heidi Bautch, secretary at New Covenant Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, for taking and responding to innumerable calls from Jeff, trying to tie up loose ends as the days in the US dwindled down.

Kathy Behm of Overland Park, Kansas, for creating the pink blanket that got Alyssa through this Year of Transitions, just as it has each of her five years.



"Check This Out!"

There are no street names or street addresses here! Costa Ricans are proud of this fact. The address of our house is: San Francisco de Dos Rios, de la Casatilla de Guarda de Parque Bosque , 400m este y 50m norte, mano derecha casa blanca y negra! There are no mailmen. Post office boxes are used. Woah! Culture warp.....

Dittys from Diane ... "I have learned":

- a. That when you ask a landlord to replace the fluorescent bulb in your bedroom ceiling light fixture, and he tells you he'll do it tomorrow... he doesn't mean it.
- b. That concrete sidewalks get slimy and incredibly slippery if they are rained on for seven months straight.
- c. That you should always take your umbrella with you, no matter how clear the sky may seem.
- d. That I should stop referring to Jeff in a spanish accent (Heff-ay) because this word really means "boss".
- e. That the Cartoon Network is just as mesmerizing to our children in spanish, as it is in english.
- f. That the letter "C" on the left-hand nozzle in the shower stands for caliente (hot), NOT cold!
- g. That a lot of communication can happen with hand gestures, and a big smile while saying, "no comprendo espanol".
- h. That just because our children are quiet in their bedroom, does not mean that Alyssa has not convinced Daniel to cut four inches off her hair, all the way around! (See picture!)
- i. That we've lived an incredibly easy, comfortable life in the U.S.A.; beyond imagination.
- j. That NIKE swoosh symbols are probably the most popular logo in Costa Rica, and that stolen Ray Ban sunglasses go for \$175.
- k. That it is very difficult to find nativity scenes that aren't American imports.
 - l. That people who live up the side of a mountain in tin shacks, can honor, glorify and worship Jesus in their cement floor 20 foot square church building.
 - m. That you need to turn on both knobs on the oven in order for it to get hot.
 - n. That if you have termites in your ceiling, you sweep first-thing every morning, and last-thing every night.
 - o. That catholics in Latin America shoot lots of fireworks on December 8th as they celebrate the immaculate conception of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
 - p. That red-and-green Christmas decorations surprisingly give me a sweet memory of home.
 - q. That Alyssa fits just fine in one of our footlockers in order to take a bath (since we only have a shower).
 - r. That when you are on a treadmill, or stationary bicycle, and are getting sweaty, you say "Ooo-eeey" to communicate in spanish that you're tired.
 - s. That I miss my family and friends more than they can know.

"About BROWNEWS"

Our newsletter goes to everyone who meets two simple criteria:

- 1) we have their address
- 2) we think they like us.

If you know somebody who isn't receiving them and would like to, send their address to Sue Thomsen at either 7650 Cross Creek Circle, Lincoln Ne 68516; or glstrthomsen@juno.com. If for some reason you would like to discontinue receiving these newsletters, let Sue know.

"Browns' Contact Information"

Costa Rica mailing address:

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Jeff and Diane Brown

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San Jose, COSTA RICA

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"Our BROWNEWS Team"

Layout & Design: Lois Nelson

Mailing Data Base: Sue Thomsen

Folding, Spindling, & Mailing: Besty Horn

Marcia Claesson will be producing our quarterly Prayer Letters (see Prayer Community article).

Kris Reiswig and Cindy Conger will be helping out from time to time with both the newsletter and the prayer letter

Muchas gracias para todos (or words to that effect).

News from Jeff & Diane

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New Covenant Community Church
6000 S. 84th
Lincoln NE 68516

If you knew that you only had 24 hours to live, what would you do that you have been putting off?

Would you do what you did yesterday all over again?

Would you give God control of your life, of your last 24 hours, and let Jesus in?