



"Tico Times"

December 2006

¡Feliz Navidad!
From Nathan & Amber



Dear Family & Friends,

Merry Christmas! Or should I say, "¡Feliz Navidad!" What a wonderful time of the year – the season in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "...Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord..." (Luke 2:10b-11a). Amber and I want to wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

As you know, this year has been quite exciting for us. On September 12th we boarded a plane bound for Costa Rica, beginning our *adventure in missions*. As I write this letter – exactly three months later – I can't believe how fast the time has passed. We are truly living a dream here. It's not easy by any means. The days are challenging – and long. *But they are thoroughly fulfilling*. Amber and I both love working in ministry. And we love our new life together in the Orosi Valley.

If you've had more than a five-minute conversation with me in the past year, then you've probably heard about our Blog – with updates on what we're up to and what God's doing in us and around us. (The address is www.missiongocostarica.org in case you were wondering.☺) So this letter might be *old news* for those of you following our journey online. But *this is a Christmas letter*, so I have to update you on the year in review. If you get bored, just skip ahead to the New Year section!

Missions and a Make-Over

How would I sum up three months of ministry in Costa Rica? That's tough. Everyday brings new surprises. But the major accomplishments so far have been: 1) hosting a mission team from our home church in Charleston, Seacoast Church, 2) working with a national outreach – *Festival Con Dios* – twice a month, and 3) giving El Jardín an *extreme make-over*.

The mission trip was terrific. We had six days of medical clinics in various communities across the country – ranging from a remote Indian village to an inner-city slum. We were able to see hundreds of people over those days. But I would venture to say that the 14 people from Seacoast – and Amber and I also – were impacted more by the experience than the patients. And the progress at El Jardín has been truly phenomenal. I will post a *virtual tour* of the camp on the Blog (there I go again) in the next few weeks so you can see how beautiful this place is – and how far it's come in a short time.

Preparing for the New Year

We're already busy making plans for 2007. The theme for the upcoming year is "Bring on the mission teams!" We're hosting our first team of the year in January – a construction/medical team from Canada. And then over the next six months we have *six more teams* planned or tentatively scheduled. It's going to be a busy year! But we are so excited to be here – sharing Christ's love and working with a purpose.

Final Greetings and Thank You's

I hope you don't get tired of hearing about how grateful we are for you. *Thank you*. Thank you for supporting us and our ministry in Costa Rica. Amber and I are so blessed to have such wonderful families and friends praying for us, encouraging us, and sending us wonderful care packages in the mail! We appreciate your kindness so much. While we don't get to talk to you as much as we'd like, you're in our thoughts and prayers everyday. We love you and miss you.

With love, in Christ,

Nathan & Amber

Our Contact Info

Phone: (506) 533-1480 • Fax: (506) 533-3506

Apdo. 141-7100 • Paraíso, Cartago • Costa Rica

thebabcocks@missiongocostarica.org • www.missiongocostarica.org