

We are so thankful that we have found a renter for our home in Mt. Carmel! We have been praying for two months for someone to come along and buy our home. While we were hoping to sell right away, having a rent check coming in each month means we can now afford a place of our own. We have been renting a room from some of our friends in El Paso for the past two months. We deeply appreciate their hospitality and generosity in sharing their home with us. With the baby coming soon, though, my nesting instinct is really kicking in. We are hoping to find a place of our own before she arrives. Then we can finally stop living out of boxes!

-Roberta



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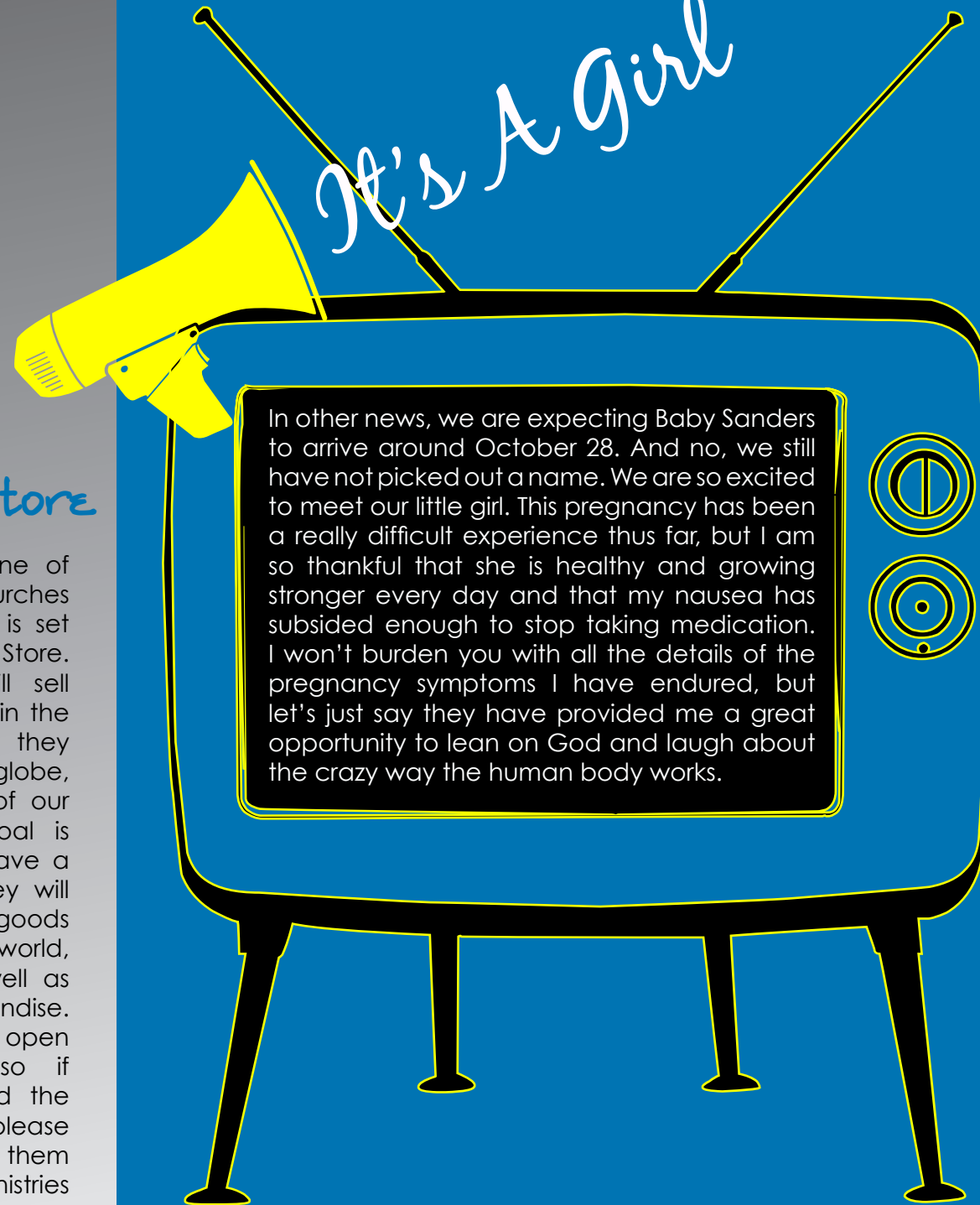
built to love

Stories from Travis & Roberta Sanders

September 2014

Missionaries With:  Casas por Cristo

It's A Girl



In other news, we are expecting Baby Sanders to arrive around October 28. And no, we still have not picked out a name. We are so excited to meet our little girl. This pregnancy has been a really difficult experience thus far, but I am so thankful that she is healthy and growing stronger every day and that my nausea has subsided enough to stop taking medication. I won't burden you with all the details of the pregnancy symptoms I have endured, but let's just say they have provided me a great opportunity to lean on God and laugh about the crazy way the human body works.

The faith store

Thursday Church, one of our supporting Churches from Vincennes, IN, is set to open The Faith Store. The Faith Store will sell merchandise made in the communities where they minister around the globe, including all three of our locations. Their goal is to think local but have a global impact. They will carry hand made goods from around the world, natural soaps, as well as some CpC merchandise. They are set to open September 30th, so if you're in or around the Vincennes area please stop by and support them and the many ministries they support.



Getting Settled

As soon as I arrived in June, I stepped back into my former

role as Team Coordinator. It only took a few days to get back into the swing of things in the office. My responsibilities include answering phone calls and emails, coordinating all of our volunteer mission trips, maintaining records, and ensuring that all of our communication with teams is consistent and effective. I cannot express how happy I am to be back in this role at CpC. There are parts of teaching that I miss, mainly my relationships with my coworkers and students. However, working at CpC gives me a deeper satisfaction in knowing that I am making a spiritual impact in the lives of countless team members and families. Being pregnant has limited my ability to go into the field to build and interact with teams and families, which I have really missed. But at least I got to go celebrate our friend Josh's 200th build in Juárez last month. I really enjoyed getting to mingle with the team members and speak Spanish with the family and the pastor after the home dedication. It feels so good to know that this is where I am supposed to be.

-Roberta

Within the last year or so Casas has been going through a transition to allow us to better serve the communities in which we work. During this process we went from having a task based system to a location based system. Therefore, when we returned I entered the Juárez Field Department. We are still in the process of figuring out the details of my position, but it is beginning to become more clear. To this point my responsibilities have primarily been getting our resources back up to operating and looking like they should. During the cartel wars our ministry lost a lot of teams due to fear of the violence. This created an extended period time of patch work trying to keep everything together on such a tight budget. Now that the violence has ceased, we are in a position to begin repairing and beautifying our properties, vehicles, and resources. In addition to fixing our current resources we are also in a position to finally begin a much needed building campaign here at our headquarters. This is exceptionally exciting for me as it appears I will get to be involved in the design and construction of this project. The first step is a new warehouse, office, and shop for the Juárez field department. It's been so gratifying getting to use my gifts and talents to help bless families in Juárez in such a huge way.

-Travis

Sunset on chaos

The last several months have been a whirlwind of long days, travel, and transitions. Back in March Roberta and I officially made the decision to resume our work at Casas por Cristo (CpC). This decision spurred a flurry of activity to get prepared. We began the process of fundraising, preparing our home in Mt. Carmel to sell, packing, and finishing up our jobs, not to mention Roberta was pregnant and trying to prepare for our first child. I then drove the 1,400 miles between Mt. Carmel and El Paso twice, unloaded all of our belongings, and spent two weeks building in Guatemala. Finally, it appears that I have reached a more normal pace of life.

This normal pace has finally given me an opportunity to slow down enough to rest up a bit, as well as reflect upon all the change we have just gone through. During this time of reflection I cannot help but

feel an incredible amount of humility and gratitude. We do not deserve the love that has been shown to us during this transition. To the countless people who helped and continue to help make this move possible, I can never repay or express my gratitude enough for your friendships, hard work, time, financial giving, and love. You make us feel like the luckiest people in the world. I'm not sure if the newness and excitement of being back here will ever wear off, but for now we are more excited about life than we perhaps ever have been.

As we have shared with many of you... probably all of you, it was a struggle for us to leave CpC and move back home. Much of our discontentment made no sense to us. By all accounts we should have been happy there, and to some extent we were happy. However, at our core, something felt off. After being back at CpC just a few weeks, that uneasy feeling is gone. I believe more than ever that

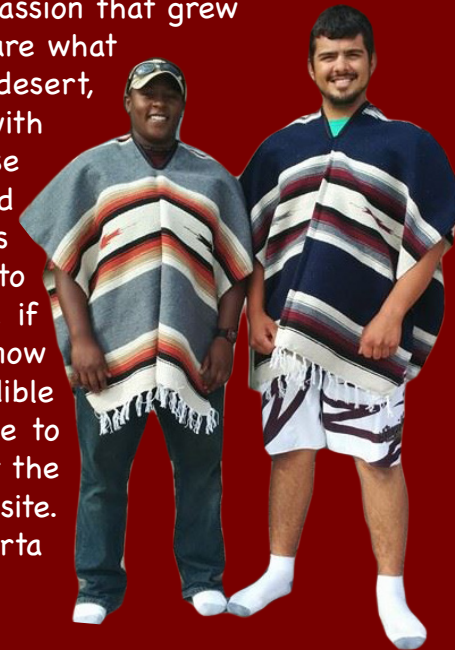
all of our dissatisfaction was rooted in events that began way back in high school and college when Roberta and I came on our first mission trips with CpC. It was at that moment something got planted deep within our hearts. It was that seed that led us to do internships, and it was those internships that changed us at our core. It ruined us in the best way possible. It broke our hearts for people living in extreme poverty with no hope of breaking free of its death grip. More than just breaking our hearts for these people, it also allowed us an avenue to make a difference. While we deeply miss all our family and friends from back home, it feels so right to be here. Mission work is what we were meant to do, and it feels incredible to be doing it again. We look forward to sharing our adventures with you. Once again, to the countless individuals that helped to make this a possibility... THANK YOU!!!

-Travis

WE ♥ OUR INTERNS

Casas por Cristo recently wrapped up its busiest time of the year. With the influx of summer volunteer teams, we have to hire additional seasonal staff. We just said goodbye to 19 interns who sacrificed their energy, money, and sweat for three months to serve alongside us. I know I only arrived halfway through the summer, but it was still sad to say goodbye. These interns were especially enthusiastic, warm-hearted, and passionate about serving those in need in México and Guatemala. They reminded me of how difficult and rewarding my summer internship at CpC was back in 2006. The lessons God taught me and the passion that grew within me that summer are what drew me back to the desert, twice now, to serve with CpC. Please keep these incredible young men and women in your prayers as they transition back into their normal lives. Also, if you or someone you know is looking for an incredible experience and would like to intern with CpC check out the intern section of our website.

-Roberta



It has been incredible to see God work things out with our return to CpC. On the financial front we are surviving. We have had many generous donations to give us a good start on where we need to be. With Baby Sanders on the way we are aware that expenses will be on the rise. Therefore, we assume we are around half way to our ideal goal. If you would be interested in supporting us and our work here please send a check with our name on the memo line or make a one time or recurring credit/debit card donation at www.casaporcristo.org. Please ensure that you select 5460 in the Program Area dropdown or write it in the memo line. Thank you so much for your support. We truly appreciate it.

fund Raising Update



Two Weeks in Paradise

While I have yet to have the opportunity to build any homes in México, I did get the opportunity to build two in Guatemala shortly after our we made the move. Casas began building in Guatemala right before Roberta and I moved back to Illinois, so this was my first opportunity to lead a group there. The houses in Guatemala are much different than the ones in México, so luckily I did not have to go it alone. The first week I built with Thursday Church from Vincennes, IN. Thursday Church was my last build before we left CpC, so it was only appropriate that they would be my maiden voyage this go round. Per usual, we had a fantastic week. My friends from Thursday Church are just the right amount of crazy for us to mesh extremely well. My second week I got to build with a group composed of people from the Dakotas, Montana, and Kansas. We had the opportunity to build in a community where, until Casas began building homes in the area, they had never seen white people. It was another fun filled week of sharing Jesus and making new friends. While in Guatemala I also got the chance to see some Myan ruins, visit a coffee plantation, explore Antigua, play way more soccer than I should have, and most importantly hang out with some of my favorite people, as well as get to know and build friendships with several new people. Oh... I almost forgot, it's also crazy beautiful there. There could not have been a better way to break my way back into my work here with Casas por Cristo.

-Travis