



June 2019

Tents away from home

Ours were not literal tents. There were solid roofs, floors and walls, and often warm welcomes and home-cooked meals. But for three-and-a-half months we lived as if in tents: pitching them here for a few days and there for a few others. Though based mostly in Wheaton, me (Ruth) as Stott International Scholar, and Jim on “home service” with Resonate Global Mission, we spent time in Grand Rapids, Dallas, Ann Arbor, New York, Boston, Mexico City, Los Angeles, Oakland, Arad (Romania), Opatija (Croatia), Budapest (Hungary), Oxford (England), and finally Houston, before heading home to Casa Adobe in Santa Rosa de Santo Domingo, Heredia, Costa Rica.

Highlights were visiting with all but one of our kids, connecting with faculty and students at Wheaton College and Graduate School as they explore their vocational choices, visiting with churches and friends along the way, teaching Master’s courses with CETI and with the Master’s in Faith and Public Life in Romania, engaging with women and men who are leading their churches and communities into whole-life discipleship. For all these opportunities and for the chance to share with many of you we are deeply grateful.

At the same time, we cannot but recognize how incredibly privileged we are. We

chose to move. We were provided for generously every stop along the way and have returned to a safe and welcoming community we can call home. Meanwhile, millions in our world are forced to move, fleeing from violence, war, unemployment, and poverty, braving deserts and oceans. They are mistreated and discriminated against as they go; they are rejected upon arrival. No place is home.

As we settle into our shared home, Casa Adobe, we remain mindful of the fact that all people deserve a place to belong and flourish. And we renew our commitment to remain unsettled until they are granted that opportunity!



We enjoyed the warm welcome of Wheaton friends from the HNGR program and El Salvador.

Seasons and reasons

“You’ll be here to celebrate the coming of Spring” our friends in Wheaton had told

us. The week before we left, however, it snowed; and we needed our winter jackets till the day in May when we flew away! “May is the most sunny and gorgeous month of the entire year in this part of the year,” our local friends had told us. “That is when you should come.” So we went. And since there were a few days between both the classes we were teaching in Arad, Romania, we booked a three-day-vacation in Croatia in between. Yet, there was so much rain we had to drive to Italy to enjoy some warm rays! Since we arrived home, the rain has not ceased to pour down and we’ve barely seen the sun that usually shows its face daily, even in the rainy season.

Seasons just aren’t as they used to be! The climate is changing, and people are suffering far more than the slight inconveniences many of us experience. Heat and cold waves, drought and incessant rains, all deepen the vulnerability of people. For example, coffee won’t grow as it used to where it used to in Honduras, so more families are left without their accustomed livelihood and forced to find other sources of income or to move to overcrowded and violent cities.

Particularly young people around the world are sounding the alert and calling adults to task regarding the condition in which we are leaving the world for them. At Casa Adobe we continue exploring what steps we can take locally, cleaning the river, reducing plastic use. As CETI we will soon launch a course on “Just ecological living: an urgent theological and life-style task”. As INFEMIT we offered a workshop on “Community living as stewardship” at the annual conference of the American Society of Missiology, and we are partnering with Micah Network and Wheaton’s HNGR program to share a repository on resources on creation care. No step is too small in living more responsibly within the created community of which humanity is but a small part!

Focusing: Family

“You people are involved in so many things, it’s dizzying,” a friend commented recently. And we can imagine it must feel so when we throw around places, acronyms and names of people and multiple organizations. So, we’re going to

abide by the rule of “less is more” and focus on one area of our lives and ministry at a time in any given letter.

We'll begin with our family and invite you to pray for our beloved “adulting” kids, who are all out of the home, working and/or studying and figuring out life. **Maya** continues living in Boston and is expecting a baby girl who is due mid-August. **Anton** has been working with Starbucks for almost five years and wondering about the possibility of moving out of Houston. **Jonathan** is finishing up his time in Oakland and planning to move to Argentina to study Veterinary Science. **María Isabel** will be taking a break from her sociology studies in Colombia in order to accompany Maya as baby is born. **Luana** continues working in New York City, where she is saving up for a move to Oxford to study a Master's in International Education. And **Natalia** is looking for a place to live as she teaches over the summer in New York City before her last year of undergrad studies at NYU. Several other adult children look to us as parents and several kids call us abuela/grandma and grandpa/abuelo. Many of them live in very challenging contexts.

It takes a village to raise a child and, though many of them may no longer see themselves in the “being raised” category, we know there can never be too much prayer on behalf of them. So thanks for accompanying us in praying for each of them!

Our most recent family reunion: August 2018



With gratitude,

Jim and Ruth Padilla DeBorst

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who are faithfully and generously giving!
We are still significantly underfunded.
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able to support our ministry?**

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