

Hello Grace Family!

It's September 1st and if you didn't already know, we're in Kansas! That's right, Matias and I just arrived for the mission conference that is being held in Kansas City next week and we are so thrilled to be able to spend some time with you and all of our loved ones here in Topeka. But since we haven't had the time yet, quickly let me give you an overview of our summer.

The beginning of July marked a week long break for us as the School of Writing ended and our internship began. Our first time leading the 3 months school was full of growth and learning. We loved getting to see our students discovering their gifts and were blessed by God throughout the school. Here's a look at how the school went for us.

We started with 5 students in April and finished with 4 when one broke her ankle and was medically evacuated to Canada by her insurance company. It was a hard blow since we were new leaders and we already had reduced numbers but still God encouraged us to keep going. Shortly before that Samantha's computer broke and without telling anyone, God used two friends to gift us with a replacement.

Helping God to unlock the creativity and talents of these women also confirmed our calling in this area despite how scary it seemed at first to be in a place of authority over those older than us. Matias continued working at Starbuck through the school and God used it to bless us, the school, and our neighbors with of food and milk on several different occasions. In addition to being blessed by Starbucks we have been trying to bless them in return by building relationships and praying for the workers. His hours have increased now that we in the internship phase but he is really enjoying it and God continues to use it to bless us!

In the Internship we have been helping 3 of our students to write the entire first draft of their books. From Children's fiction to heartbreaking memoirs, it has been an amazing time so far. They are about half done with their projects and with just over a month left we are helping them to push through and reach their goal. We know these books will be tools for God to use in very different spheres of society and couldn't be more pleased to see them being brought to life.

And of course a most exciting addition to our summer was Matias 's sister Michele. She came to work with the Kona campus for 6 weeks and we loved getting to have her with us! Matias got his U.S. driver's license and we took as many opportunities to show her the island as we could. When she said goodbye it was truly heartbreaking as having family close by is a rarity for us. I think the hope of getting to see more family again soon was our only consolation and are we sooo glad to be with them now! I'm praying the next two weeks drag bye as slowly as possible.

Lastly, We are starting a blog to help get shorter and more frequent updates to all of our supporters. There will still be an occasional longer newsletter, perhaps once or twice a year, but we really want to get you all involved in what we are doing and witnessing day to day as well as all the amazing things missionaries are doing around the world. We are even making it bi-lingual to reach all of our supporters in North and South America. If you would like an email alert whenever we post something new simply follow us at mandsarredondo.wordpress.com . We are including links and information about giving financially as well as a special video giving you a brief view of our work and vision. We would love for you to check it out.

Blessings to you all and thank you to everyone who has helped to make this trip possible; we will be seeing you soon!

Matias & Samantha



The 2016 School of Writing graduation

Back: Staff and founders Jim and Janice Rogers.

Front from left to right: Our students representing Italy, Holland, Australia, & China!