

# ¿Qué pasa con los Spurlings?

## EN ROUTE TO PARAGUAY

*Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. Brethren, pray for us. —1st Thessalonians 5:24–25*

### Hola nuestros amigos (Hello our friends),

We trust you are well and enjoying the presence of the Lord in your life. We are learning more and more Spanish each day. We are now able to speak in the present, past, and future tenses (although, truth be known we talk very slowly and haltingly). We are so grateful for your prayers and encouragement.

In this letter we hope to share some of the particulars of our daily lives. Karen writes about an answer to prayer we experienced. J shares a little of what we are learning this year in language study. We have several prayer requests and our “fun box” makes another appearance. And there is more!

¡Dios le bendiga! (God bless you!)

J, Karen and Jeffrey Spurling

[www.thespurlings.com](http://www.thespurlings.com)

*p.s. The header is a photo of J, Karen and Jeffrey with Mom and Pop Spurling during their recent visit.*

## Philippians 4:6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

by **KAREN SPURLING**

These words spoken by the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi, has special meaning to me because countless times the Lord has spoken to me through these words when problems arise. Since our last newsletter, a problem arose. I received a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) informing me that I had abandoned the Application Process for my United States Citizenship. Needless to say, I was shocked and confused by the letter. Since I submitted my application, I had been awaiting word from the INS to inform me of my next step. To make a long story short, I never received their communique. Therefore since I did not show up to have my fingerprints taken (this was the next step in the

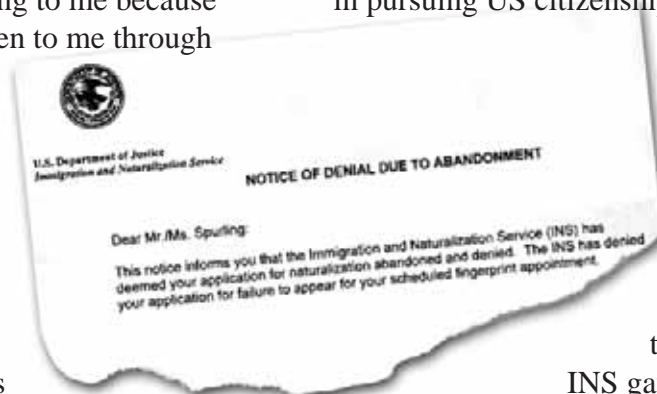
process), they concluded that I was no longer interested in pursuing US citizenship. When I received the

letter informing me of their decision, my heart sank as I thought about how important this is to my family. I also thought about all the money I had already invested in the process. But thanks be unto our gracious Father, there was a ray of hope. The

INS gave me 30 days to appeal their decision and file a request to reopen my file.

This would mean that I could pick up where I left off. However if they refused my request, the alternative would be to begin the process all over again and pay the application fees once again.

Despite this ray of hope, there were two strikes against



me. First, I was dealing with the INS. I have heard countless horror stories about the American beauracritic system, about how impersonal, how slow and how suspicious they are, moreso since 9/11. Also, the grounds that the Governemnt gave me for appeal did not apply to my case. Therefore, I had a decision before me, should I panic or should I trust God with this and believe that he could come through for me even when it involves the "INS". Well J and I, by an act of the will, chose not to be anxuios and instead bring this request before God.

We decided to write a letter to the INS, simply informing them that we had not received their letter. We also kindly asked them to reconsider their decision and



to reopen our file without any additional charges. We mailed the letter off and we prayed telling the Lord that no matter the outcome, this whole process was in His Hands anyway. And then we waited.

Last week, my in-laws telephoned us to let us know that a letter had come from the INS office. The letter stated that they had granted our motion to Re-open my Application for Naturalization. This time around my heart soared and I was left with a sense of awe at the realisation that once again, the Lord in His grace and in His timing had answered the prayer of my heart.

What is the prayer of your heart? What is it that you need from our Father today? I encourage you by an act of your will, choose to not be anxious but instead bring your request before our Lord and then rest in Him.

## What are we learning?

by J Spurling

I've always found it interesting how many things we take for granted before knowing and understanding the full process. For example, prior to working for Macy's as a manager, I took for granted the perfect displays of clothing in the stores. I never thought about the hours that went into unpacking the clothes, pricing the clothes, folding the clothes, and rearranging the store. To this day, I don't enjoy the "mall" experience like I once did.

With the Spanish language I'm having a déjà vu experience all over again. There are many things that I never thought about before. Did you know that even though the letters are the same as in English, the way that you pronounce them are not? Did you know that many times the sentence structure in Spanish is opposite to what it is in English? Did you know that each verb in Spanish has 106 different ways that it can be spelled or spoken depending on the tone, the time, and the person? I realize now that there is much more to understand than I could have ever imagined.

This year in Costa Rica we've learned things we would have never imagined, and we know that we are just scratching the surface of what is to come. We have been given and have learned (for the most part) all the different conjugations of the Spanish verbs. Currently we're studying the proper uses of those conjugations. At times the learning process is a joy, and at other times it's not fun at all. At the end of this year we will have studied everything that we are expected to learn this first year. We'll enter a new culture in Paraguay and we're going to realize, all over again, how much more we have to learn.

Unlike my Macy's experience, I'm not resenting the work. The Lord has given us an incredible opportunity to serve him in a capacity that we are excited about. I'm sure that your prayers for us this year have been used to encourage us and enable us to learn. So, we thank you! And we ask you to please continue to pray for us.



To learn more  
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## What's been going on?

We've visited: J's parent's visited after Christmas. We were able to spend time together at the beach and around San José. Dad and Mom enjoyed the coffee and they enjoyed J, Karen and Jeffrey... but probably mostly Jeffrey.

We've studied: We began our second trimester here in Costa Rica. The intensity has increased. But through it all we continue to learn and enjoy the experience.

We've ministered: We've had several more opportunities to minister to the poor in Los Guido (for more information visit our web-site, <http://www.thespurlings.com/pictures5.html>).

We've potty-trained: Jeffrey is now using the facility (more or less).



## Vehicle Fund

We are raising \$25,000 for a vehicle. During the first year of ministry in Paraguay the need will not be as great for our own vehicle. However, as ministry and responsibilities grow, the need for a vehicle will grow as well.

Currently supporters have given \$1501.00 towards the vehicle fund. We want to thank all of you for your support. As the amount raised comes closer to the amount needed our traffic signal will change from **RED** to **GREEN**.

Anyone wanting to give a tax deductible gift to the Spurling's vehicle fund can do so by mailing a check made out to The Christian and Missionary Alliance to (it is imperative to write in the memo that the money is for the Spurling's vehicle fund):

The Christian and Missionary Alliance  
Attn: J and Karen Spurling's Outfit Fund  
P.O. Box 35000  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3500

## Pray for us...

1. Pray that we would excel in our language learning.
2. Continue to pray about Karen's stolen documents. Pray that the Lord would guide us in the retrieval or renewal of the documents. Pray that Karen's naturalization process will go smoothly.
3. Continue to pray that we would be used to heighten mission's awareness in our home church and home district.
4. Pray for our health... Karen adds, "Especially Jeffrey, that he would continue to be healthy and safe."
5. Pray for the raising of funds for our vehicle.
6. Pray for increased Great Commission giving.

**When God's people pray they are given reason to praise. See [www.thespurlings.com](http://www.thespurlings.com) for praises to prayer.**