



Montana Vista

N E W S L E T T E R

Attack of the killer Blog!


Many of you may be wondering what a Blog is. For the uninitiated, it is short for "Web Log," and is basically an online diary. You may not be aware that I've kept a Blog for a few months now, (although I haven't updated it as often as I'd like.) While I'm still kind of new to the whole thing, I'd like to use this space to show those of you who are interested how to put an "RSS Feed" in your browser so you'll know the instant a new entry has been made to my Blog.

1. It's important that you have a newer browser, because the older browsers (Internet Explorer 6, for example) don't have any kind of automatic RSS Feed software (though you can probably download one.)

2. Go to my Blog page (this is fun:)

<http://blog.360.yahoo.com/blog-CI4QzGs9dKhHiSciD5t5hjpROo16WIk-?cq=1>

I'm not sure why it's so convoluted, but that's what it is!

3. At the bottom you'll see a button labeled "RSS."  Click on it.

4. A new page will come up with blurbs from the previous Blog posts. Click the "Subscribe to this Feed" link (in Internet Explorer 7) or the "Subscribe Now" button (in Firefox) and you'll see a pop-up asking where you want to save it.

5. Choose the location ("Feeds" in IE7 and "Bookmarks Toolbar Folder" in Firefox) and you're done!

6. To access the Blog in IE7, click on the "Favorites" icon  and select "Montana Vista Blog" under "Feeds." In Firefox, select the "Montana Vista Blog" button in the toolbar at the top of your browser. Enjoy!

Hola from El Paso, Texas! It's a new year, so it's time for a new look! I hope you like the new style of the newsletter, and I also hope to keep you better informed of the things happening around here. It is so encouraging hearing from folks like the Hinds and their class. To know that y'all are continuing to think of us and pray for us is reassuring. It's the best support any missionary could ask for!

I'm not sure how many of y'all keep up with our Blog, but if you do, much of this won't be news. As I stated there, I'm using it as a way to remember all the things that are going on so when it comes time for the newsletter I'll know what to write.

I'd like to begin by asking how many of you have ever heard of the travels of the apostle Paul and his companion Joseph. "Joseph? Jesus' dad? Lonnie's gone off the deep end!" Actually, most of us have heard of Paul and Joseph travelling together, although you may know Joseph by the name Barnabas.

That's right! Joseph was his real name, but the brothers of the first century changed his name due to his character. His nickname means "son of encouragement."

I say all of this to tell you about another person who got a name change, but this time for the worse. Vero's husband, Pedro, is known by everyone as "Vilo," which means—you guessed it—"vile." That's because he has quite a temper, and when he gets mad he apparently gets pretty nasty. However, after much prayer and lots of humbling circumstances, Vilo put on Christ in baptism back in September!

During his baptism I decided to announce that, just as Christ had done with Cephas, I was going to give Vilo the name "Pedro." Okay, that's already his name, but I wanted to emphasize that, in Christ, he could have a new name and be the "rock" in Montana Vista. Please pray for him, as he is going through the ups and downs of his new faith, and in many ways be tested in the wilderness.

Also, many of you may be aware that Romie had gall bladder surgery during the month of September. It was really a bit scary for a while, as many of you may know who have gone through it. In fact, I was surprised when Romie said the pain from her gall bladder was worse than that of childbirth! If what they say about men and pain is true, I pray I never get gall stones.



Lonnie baptizing Pedro (quality is due to this being a camera-phone picture!)

Prayer List

Of immediate concern is **Alicia's health**. We are really unsure what to think about it, but we know that your prayers will definitely make a difference!

Mayela and her family are also in need of prayers. As a single parent she needs the strength of God to help her with job pressures and the stress of taking care of three kids.

Please continue praying for **Vero and Pedro**. Although Pedro is doing better with his personal struggles, it's still a constant battle for him and certainly puts stress on the family and their marriage.

Sylvia has been doing well spiritually, but continues to have a hard time getting priorities straight. Please pray for her and her family, that she can be a positive influence for them.

Please pray that we are able to discover and embrace the **mission of Montana Vista**.

This summer we will have two groups come down to help us with **VBS** and with the follow-up afterward. Please keep this effort in your prayers.

Finally, please pray for wisdom for us all! We feel so incapable of all the things God has called us to do. We could not make it through without God's wisdom. May we be bold in proclaiming the gospel message in love.



Sonia, Vivianna & Talon playing in the snow at Ruidoso

As October rolled around we really got going with our 30 Hour Famine (www.30hourfamine.org). The whole church got involved trying to raise money and awareness about the terrible conditions in Africa. This relief effort not only sends food to starving kids throughout the world, but also teaches families how to raise crops in the harsh environment in which they live. The best part about it is the fact that it



Vivianna, Ivonne, Crystal, and Giselle making their Famine shirts

is all done in the name of Christ. Our final amount was \$689, which translates into helping almost 2 kids for an entire year! Not only so, but the U.S. government pledged to match any funds donated, which means \$1,378 was sent to help starving children. We ask you to pray for these efforts as well, and how you might be able to participate in this great work in the name of Christ. (Who knows, maybe we can get a little challenge going.)

Also during October, Romie had a "relapse," where she was feeling the same symptoms as before her gall bladder surgery. It turns out the doctor missed a couple of stones, so she went in for an endoscopy to remove them. Since then she's done great!

The next thing to hit us financially was the dentist office. When we signed everyone up on my insurance in September we decided to get our teeth checked out. Romie and I were diagnosed with periodontal disease, and the treatment would be \$1,800, even with the insurance! So we've been paying medical and dental bills the past few months. Fortunately we're finished with the treatments (and I'll remind everyone to floss daily to avoid the physical and financial pain of those treatments!)

Christmas was a wonderful time for our family. I ended up being off work for five days, and what a relaxing time it was! We went to Juárez Christmas Eve to spend time with Romie's mom and brother. Surprisingly, my mom came down and went to Mexico with us! The next day headed up to her house in Ruidoso (yes, she lives there now) and spent the night there. We also spent New Year's up there, and had fun playing in the snow. It's great to have Mom so close, and it's a good excuse to get to go to the mountains more often.

Finally, we've been studying the purpose of Montana Vista lately, trying to really get folks here to realize what we're doing there. We hope to encourage them to devote themselves to the work in the Montana Vista area and really strive to be a light there. Please pray for this effort. We love you all and long to hear from you. Please keep in touch with us! Special shout-out to Mike & Ruby Jackson, Wayne & Yvonne Hinds, and others who have written or visited us. It is more encouraging than you could ever know!