



Montana Vista

N E W S L E T T E R

Last Quarter, 2007

Photos galore

I'm not sure if anyone was able to gain access to my blog, but this time I decided to showcase a few of the pictures we've taken throughout the year. If you'd like to see what's going on with Montana Vista or even just with our family, I try to keep our photos pretty up-to-date online at the following places:

www.flickr.com/lonnius_maximus

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Lonnie.Tapscott>



At the Flying J Ranch in Ruidoso. Yeah, Romie's the short one in green!



Yes! Snow! In El Paso! Now, eat it!

I'm such a bad boy. I just cannot believe that it's almost been a year since my last newsletter. Wow. Honestly, the year went by so fast! This newsletter's going to turn into an annual!

Since our last newsletter, we started a married couples' class. Our first meeting went really well. We had four couples, plus Romie and myself. It was a good start, but soon fizzled. It is really difficult to keep something like that going here. So many people have so much to do. Job schedules change regularly, as do family circumstances. Unfortunately, the study didn't continue. We had one more with one of the couples, then after that it was over.

On a happier note, we did have a baptism back in March. Rodolfo, the son of members Gloria and Francisco, was baptized (see the picture at right.) He's doing well and continuing to learn English. He already knows an extraordinary amount of Bible. Please pray for his spiritual health and growth.



Kevin baptizing Rodolfo.

Our Wednesday night classes have become something special. We decided to try something a bit different for Wednesday nights—something which we've never taken part in anywhere. We call it family night, and we try to use it to teach families how to spend quality time together in worship and devotion together.



Mayela and family on Wednesday night family night.

We also had the privilege in June of heading off to Pine Springs Summer Camp for a week. What an absolute pleasure! Kevin and I taught classes there, but it wasn't much like a job. We got to spend a lot of time hiking and just relaxing in God's beautiful creation. I'm eager to back

again next year. Most of the kids got to go due to a wonderful brother at Hobbs paying their way, so it was a great escape for all of us. And the kids had a blast, of course!

After we got back from camp we had only a short respite and then we started in with VBS! A large group from Hobbs came down and helped us (who am I kidding? They did all the work and we were just there to translate!) We had a lot of fun singing together, playing together, and worshipping

Prayer List

Of immediate concern is still **Alicia's health**. We are hopeful that the move will be beneficial to her.

Mayela and her family are still in need of prayers. She carries so much weight on her shoulders. We wish we could do more for her, but she has such a strong faith that it seems our efforts are miniscule compared to the help she receives from God.

Vero needs prayers during this time of transition. She seems to be the most reticent about the change, although she is supportive of it.

Speaking of which, we DEFINITELY need prayers during the **transition to Montwood**. Not only our congregation, but theirs as well. It is an English-speaking congregation, and we will be introducing a new language and culture to them. We pray that the unity of the Spirit will bring us together to do amazing things for God.

Also, please pray for **Romie**. She is planning on starting school this year while continuing to work. We hope it will lead to a great opportunity for her career as a teacher.

together. A week later we had the youth group from Duncan come down to do some work around Montana Vista, including helping some of the older members clean up and fix up their yards. They also made churros (fried cinnamon stick kind of like a long donut) at our house, which quickly became cupcakes after the mix turned out wrong. They then took the cupcakes to the families that



...I've got love like the ocean...

came to our VBS. It was big-time culture shock for many of them—especially when they were confronted by the Border Patrol after tripping some silent alarms during a visit to the Rio Grande!

Our family continued the busy summer by going to Matamoros, Mexico in July to attend Romie's cousin's Quinceañera (a celebration of a young woman's 15th birthday.) It was very enjoyable getting to swim in the gulf, but I got completely fried! I could hardly sleep with the blisters on my shoulders and back. By the way, don't ever let anyone tell you that salt water is good for a sunburn! Ow!

As summer drew to a close we began preparing for the second annual 30 Hour Famine. Once again it was a true blessing for our group as we fasted to raise funds for starving kids throughout the world. We decided to add a little extra motivation this year: If the church was able to raise \$900, Kevin would paint his hair orange and I would shave off half my beard! We ended up with over \$1300, so you can see from the picture at left what happened as a result!

Finally, we're ending on somewhat of a sad note. Kevin and Alicia have decided to move to Houston. Kevin was offered a position with the Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute (<http://www.tgcbi.org/>). He will be helping train Spanish-speaking leaders. It was a difficult decision for them, but Alicia's health was what finally caused them to lean towards Houston. You can read more about that decision in Kevin's newsletter. They plan on heading out probably by May or June. Therefore, we've decided to join forces with another local congregation: the Montwood church of Christ. We're rather excited about this move because of all the positive things happening at Montwood. Although in many ways its the end of an era, everything seems like this change will be blessed by God. Once again, Kevin does a great job of explaining all the details of this change in his newsletter.

We ask you all for your continued prayers and support during this transition period. Thank you so much for continuing to keep us in your prayers and remembering us in your classes. We still feel connected to our brothers and sisters in Lubbock and other places that have touched our lives. May God bless you all.



Kevin and Lonnie showing off the results of making silly challenges to devoted Christians