

Happy New year to all! If you are anything like me, you are just beginning to write 2009 on things. I hope that you are being blessed and growing in Spirit. We believe the work here in Houston continues increasing and changing thanks to God's power and plans. We thank God for you and your excitement about God's kingdom. We are also thankful that you allow us to be used in full-time Spanish-speaking ministry here. You are changing lives . . . beginning with ours.

Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute-

The institute continues moving onward and upward. During this first semester I've had a little bit lighter course-load than normal, thankfully. That has allowed me to focus on administrative duties and recruiting new students. By the way, if you know of good candidates please contact me! I am currently teaching a technology course to our students here and in La Palma, El Salvador through video-conference. It's been a very practical class with a lot of hands-on activities. Our students needed help with basic computing skills like using Microsoft Word or PowerPoint and sending emails in order to complete their homework. Along with giving them skills to survive school, we also hope to prepare them for issues they will face in typical church ministry of the 21st century.

We have also been blessed recently with some very good news at the institute. We have received a donation from an anonymous donor in January that will allow the institute to launch a more aggressive plan for both our video-conferencing network as well as our on-line streaming courses.

- Video-conferencing Network (live, distance-learning classes that are available by connecting during scheduled hours): Currently we have sites in 12 of the 21 Spanish-speaking nations. We are planning to bring in 5 more into the video-conferencing network by having at least one site in that nation by the end of 2009! To do this we are offering to share the costs for these 5 sites with stateside congregations and churches in these countries. We hope to open doors for discipleship development through our courses, but also encourage others to be involved financially in the program. We believe the current plan is both very exciting and very attainable.
- On-line streaming program (recorded classes available on the internet-similar to watching a DVD course with a study guide): Currently in our on-line program we have only 1 class that is available with 4 more being prepared. Our eventual goal is to be able to offer our entire curriculum of 40 courses and finally offering a degree for those who complete the studies. We hope to attain this goal by producing 2 classes per month over the next couple of years. In fact, beginning in March I will be recorded teaching the book of Acts. I covet your prayers as I prepare and teach this important book. Right now we have over 110 students all over the world taking the course that is available. Only our God knows how many students will participate when an entire degree program is available online!

Family News

With our last repairs finished and trash picked up, as of Monday, Feb. 16, the Montgomery family has finally fully recovered from hurricane Ike! Many parts of the gulf coast, however, have a long way to go yet. Bethany is already praying that we'll have fewer hurricanes next hurricane season. She learned quickly what it means to live on the coast! Alicia's health remains about the same. She continues to see a specialist here in Houston who is trying several different treatments. So far, however, Alicia's body has not responded. We know that so many of you love and pray for her daily. Thank you so much for both. Thank you also for the cards of encouragement along the way. We do ask that you continue to ask the Lord specifically for perseverance and strength in the inner man for us both. Bethany continues to be a joy (well, most of the time, anyway). She is receiving the highest grades for first grade and is a top reader in her class. She loves going to church, playing with her little friends and living in her imaginary world. As always, if you are interested in more details about the work here, please contact me. I'm always more than happy to share! May God richly bless each of you with grace.

Kevin, Alicia and Bethany

montgomery@tgcbi.org / (281) 280-8145