

SALSA PICANTE



THE HOT NEWS MIX OF EDUVENTURE MEXICO SPRING 2007 - MARCH 4TH REPORT

CLASSES AND VISITORS

The students have been steadily progressing through their academic work. In our foundational course, Spiritual Formation, they have been recently delving into the depths of truth surrounding spiritual warfare with discussion centered around C. S. Lewis' book, Screwtape Letters and Neil Anderson's Victory Over Darkness. This is building on the foundational truths of grace and forgiveness studied previously in the semester. Also, by the time you read this, each student will have recited two-thirds of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7); that's 72 verses!

In the Community Development class, they have been exploring how to best enable people in communities to transform their lives for the Kingdom of God. They have been drawing from their experiences with ministries with the poor in Chihuahua city and their readings, to enhance discussions concerning: recognizing the trap of poverty, biblical holism, living simply, being economically responsible, justice for the exploited, building leadership, establishing discipleship, teaching and training adults, appropriate technology, and all aspects of sustainability.

The U. S. students have completed most of their Spanish classes, applying their new language skills whenever they can with the local ranch people here. Almost all instruction is also completed in the Physical Education/Outdoor Education course – charting the way for the remaining adventures of climbing and canyoneering in Basaseachi National Park and the 8-day Trek in April. We have quite a group of adventurers this semester – they have been excelling on the rocks and horseback. As I write this – the whole group of students is on their own two-night camping trip as part of their mid-semester break, camping on the beautiful sand beaches of the river.

We are finishing up a wonderful two-week visit of Kathy's parents. They have been sitting in on classes, getting to know the students, helping in any way they can, and of course, playing with Caleb and Joyellen.

This coming week is going to be the fullest EVM has ever had. We have 8 college students studying to be missionary pilots flying in from Iowa to get some pilot experience required for those serving mission work in remote areas. They will be spending two days here sitting in on the program, checking out what EduVenture is all about. Dr. Tom Wisley flew in to the ranch today and will be with us for two weeks teaching the bulk of our Applied Missions class and all of the Cross Cultural Communications class. Needless to say, it will be an academically busy two weeks for the students as they compress a lot of classes into a short period. We also have a visitor, Steven Martens – alumnus of John Brown University, here checking out the program and lifestyle as part of his interviewing for the adventure leader position for EduVenture Papua. Monday brings the arrival of five more students from Westminster College of Pennsylvania. Under the leadership of Steve and Laura Nystrom, they will be spending their week of spring break camping, trekking, and climbing here in addition to mixing with our students.

In April we have a group of twenty Mexican young people coming from Chihuahua, under the leadership of Liz Irigoyen to camp at the Calandria campus for their Semana Santa 4-day break. It appears the Lord has a new promo/recruiting plan for EduVenture Mexico by bringing people here to check out the program! If this keeps up, we may not need to go out and shake bushes as much to find students for the program. Sure seems like a good approach since we have neither staff, budget, or time to spend recruiting.

KIMBLES "ROCK ON"

Once again my heart is empty and full all at the same time - but this is not the end of the semester when it typically happens. Saying goodbye to those we grow to love is always difficult. The Kimble family was the first group to visit EduVenture Mexico this semester. They came for a week to further support our program in any way they could. They also allowed another opportunity for Jesus to sit down next to them and embrace them each as they continue to walk with the pain of losing Brian, their special son/brother/friend, to a senseless murder over two years ago. They felt the

best use of their Brian's climbing gear was to help EVM start the climbing program with hopes his gear would be a blessing to young people growing in their faith.

The week was a powerful time of releasing hurt, forgiving and healing and best of all - restoration of joyful eyes and smiles through the best gifts Christ gives us: Faith, Hope, and Love - the greatest of these being Love. Last summer I had Daphne help me make a memorial plaque for Brian Kimble then mounted it on a large rock at our instructional climbing site near campus. It has his life verses from Psalm 62:5-7:

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;
My hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Brian's Boulder is a very special place for the Kimbles and us all. The Holy Spirit has moved powerfully here and the students and staff have been right in the middle of it all. We ALL have been impacted by God's love and grace. The steadfast love for Christ of Kevin and Laurie in leading their family through a very dark valley puts skin and bones to faith that impacts all those around them. EduVenture continues to be a ministry where God works in many more lives than just the students we focus on. Not only do visitors receive blessing from the Holy Spirit's work here, but our staff continue to grow in this "Rivendell" on earth. The work of the Holy Spirit can not be contained when the living water keeps bubbling up in the lives of men - it spreads everywhere and splashes all over those around. Humans infect humans. As C. S. Lewis so aptly put it - Christianity (when it is alive and full and void of the world) is the "good infection". The almighty physician once again healed many by exposing a few to His mercy, grace, and love then letting the epidemic spread to all in this community. God intended our hearts to be a vessel of transferring himself to others - creating a truly communicable condition. The Kimbles have clung to Jesus' cloak through their loss, resulting in edification of those who see pain yet know their foundation is the Rock that can not be moved.

The Kimbles returned to the cold northeast a bit more sore than when they arrived. Their last day on horseback led to sore legs and bottoms topped off with some sunburn. Now they know why cowboys walk the way they do! Not to neglect their upper body muscles, they also had aches from doing manual labor projects for us on top of fitting in some rock climbing sessions. As we have adjunct professors come to teach at EduVenture, we have our adjunct (better . . . adopted) families that are an integral part of the EduVenture Mexico community. The Kimbles are the newest addition to the bigger family here. Thank you Kevin, Laurie, Katie, Holly, Brian, and Eric. Despite their pain, joy is budding again in the hearts and faces of the Kimbles. Thank you Kimbles.

What a privilege it is to see and taste of God's work first hand. I strongly urge all who read this to position in close to Jesus and his life-breathing work on this earth. Forsake all that is vain and temporary - status, careers, money, pleasure, and security, and be willing to obey Him and risk following the most radical man who ever walked this earth. Guaranteed, you will have no regrets - just a full life. There is none like Him and there is no better place to be than to have a VIP pass to have more than front seat access to watch His Olympic feats in the hearts of men and women. The Lord draws us to himself while at the same time sending us out to all of mankind who need Him. It isn't an easy climb, but way better than staying in the flat lands of the "world". Tie into His support rope and climb on, or as Brian would say, "Rock On".

CHIHUAHUA AND COMIDA

Shelby Hayes, Houghton College

Two weeks ago we took a trip to the state capital of Chihuahua. This trip will definitely be one of the highlights of the semester. Each one of our homestays was a wonderful experience. My house mom, Rosy, made authentic Mexican food for every meal and made me feel at home in everything we did. I have never enjoyed blow-drying my hair as much as I did those three days.

We had the opportunity to attend a record-breaking event - the Tacotón (Taco-a-thon). This was an attempt to break the Guinness Book of World records for the biggest hunk of meat (al pastor) I will ever see (10' tall). It made tacos for 30,000 orders. The coolest thing about the whole event is that the proceeds went to support Ed and Rosa's children's home that we visited the day before. Food was definitely a theme of the trip. We also indulged at "Super Coldies" - a local ice cream shop.

Each one of us also had the opportunity to attend church with our host families, which also happened to be the churches of Dani or Ruben. We were able to see more of their lives by meeting their friends and families. God is at work in this

city and is working in the lives of the missionaries we visited. What a life-changing experience! We were able to see what it means to give up everything and follow the Lord. I am really looking forward to our next homestay and trip to Creel and the surrounding Copper Canyon area.

THE LORD PROVIDES

Brooke Aili, Bethel University

In Chihuahua, a repeated theme that I observed in the lives of the missionaries (Fichi, Ed & Rosa, and Sarah) was that the Lord provides. They taught me that if you live by faith and trust in the Lord, He will overwhelm you with His provisions. When Ed and Rosa had nothing left to eat with the 100+ orphans they live with, they prayed and trusted and God provided in miraculous ways. When Sarah needed a home for the girls, she had faith and God provided beyond her expectations. What amazing witnesses they were to us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. We need not worry because God will provide when we have faith and trust in Him.

DINNER AT THE ROBERTS'

Joy Jupp, Olivet Nazarene University

Thursday evening, after bible study, Phil and Amy Roberts (owners of the Rancho Huapoca) invited all of us from EduVenture for a delicious dinner. It was quite a week of delectable dinners! Amy made Pink Lemonade – a nice change of pace from drinking water 24/7. Fresh-baked bread with homemade Italian-style lasagna and parmesan cheese to top it off. And then there was fresh tossed salad: greens, tomatoes, tangerines, black olives, sunflower seeds, cucumbers, and our choice of dressing. Next came coffee with chocolate strawberry cake (aka Heaven!).

There were two big tables of satisfied stomachs and laughter in a beautiful western-style home. Oh, I forgot to mention that the whole time we were having to wear daypacks with a large heavy rock in it for an object lesson for spiritual formation class. It ended up being a long night. Lily fell asleep on my lap (with me sleeping too) on the ride back to La Calandria. Here at EVM, we eat very well. I must say the night at the Roberts was “almost” the best dinner here – don’t want to offend the guys for their Valentines meal they made last month.

WINDS OF CHANGE FOR EVM

A lot has happened in the last two months with planning for the future of EVM and EduVenture as a whole. In an attempt to keep EVM running and moving forward in its development as well as to save money for EduVenture overall, a proposal drafted by Tim, Kathy, Hec, and Jen was given to Scotty and the board of directors. The decision has been made to only run the fall semester in an attempt to concentrate our enrollment and efforts. This plan only pertains to 2007 and will be evaluated again to assess the feasibility of running future fall semesters. EVM staff will only be on EduVenture salary for the months of the fall semester. The remaining months of the year the staff will move on to another location somewhere in Latin America to assist with another ministry or ministries – working with the poor and needy. In summary, when not working for EVM, we will be assisting and enabling a different ministry, trusting the Lord once again to provide and work out the details.

The long-range plan is to build lasting relationships with the people in ministries by returning annually to serve and enable the work God is doing there. EVM has been slowly growing and continues to be refined each semester as we see God move in the lives of the students. It is exciting to us all to move ahead with offering at least another semester. Once again we anticipate seeing God do some great things. This is a crazy “business” plan, and even crazier “career” plan, but we feel good about this and see a lot of potential for this to be a win-win situation for both EVM and other ministries.

STAFF POSITION OPENING

With this new plan and with the rest of the EVM staff moving on to other chapters in their lives, we will have a staff opening for the fall semester – needing someone to be the cook and buyer for the program. This position will only be a four-month salary position, renewed each fall semester EVM operates. This position may be shared with Rancho Huapoca (as a campus host for Christian retreats/conferences as well as other work) to possibly provide for year-round employment. We prefer this position be filled by a bilingual Mexican family, but will consider all interested. We are also in need of a person with a strong background working with horses to continue running the program that Daphne and Paul have so well developed over these past years. It would be ideal to find someone who can do all these responsibilities – finding this person(s) is the problem. We will leave this EVM position and the other staff openings at our other sites up to the Lord and people’s prayers.

We are grateful for any support you can offer through praying for:

- direction for the future for EVM staff and the program here
- EVM finding a cook/buyer/horse person for next fall (preferably a family)
- finding a program director and staff for EduVenture Fiji
- filling the adventure leader position for EduVenture Papua
- Scotty, director of EduVenture, and the board of directors for wisdom with making decisions
- continued health – so far it has been the best semester yet – no problems
- the Lord's will be done with each of the students
- our alumni - that they may live intentionally for and dependent on Jesus - (though distance separates us, you all continue to be part of the EVM family and are in our thoughts)

“Salsa Picante” is written by Tim Trezise, Site Director for EduVenture Mexico and volunteer student entries. Check out the latest photos of this semester at: http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/tim_trezise/my_photos . Families and friends of students – please do not send care packages or gifts to the students. Letters (many of them) are welcomed, but the bulk of packages make it difficult for those to fit in everything needed on trips down to Mexico from Tucson. Thanks for your cooperation. Please send all mail for staff and students to EduVenture's new location: **5254 E. Holmes St., Tucson AZ 85711**



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