



Jason & Michele Maynard

Preparing to Serve in

Ecuador

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Summarizing Summer

It's always amazing to me when I sit down to summarize the things that have happened to us in the last couple of months— it's really is hard to convey on paper the excitement that has gone on in our lives lately. God has continued to show Himself faithful to us, and it's comforting to see His hand guiding and directing our paths. (Prov. 3: 5-6) Here is a quick run-down of what we've been up to lately:

- August 10—14 we participated in VBS at our home church, Willo-Hill. The Dinosaur Detectives curriculum was great, and Jason got to help Pastor Dave build several life-sized dinosaurs as we turned the church auditorium into a dinosaur zoo!



- On August 17 we visited Mill Creek Baptist Church in the small town of Ostrander, OH. It was exciting to get to know the church family there and we enjoyed the hospitality of Pastor Pat Bruce and his wife Heather. Joey loved getting to play with their daughters Brittany and Hannah as well. Our van also benefitted from Pastor Bruce's mechanical expertise as we experienced some vehicle trouble on the way down. We were able to fix the problem, and were very thankful that it was not more serious.
- August 21— 22 we attended a certification class to learn how to teach English as a Second language. This is something that we believe the Lord will use here in our own community as well in Ecuador. Pray with us as we seek to begin an outreach into our local community, which has a very large Hispanic population as well as several other ethnic groups where English is not the primary language.

- August 23 — 25 we went to Michigan. Our first stop was in Hamburg at Hiawatha Bible Church. We spent the night with a family in the church and enjoyed getting to know several people in the church the night before. The next day we shared our ministry during the church service, and enjoyed a great potluck afterwards.
- Sunday evening we drove to Charlotte to present our ministry at Chester Gospel Church in the evening service. We were encouraged as we met the church family there and got to hear the incredible testimonies of so many people in the church.
- Joey was able to start school the following Tuesday at Willo-Hill. He is in the K4 class, which is the pre-kindergarten group, and he loves it! We are very thankful to the Lord for providing the opportunity for him to go to school this year.



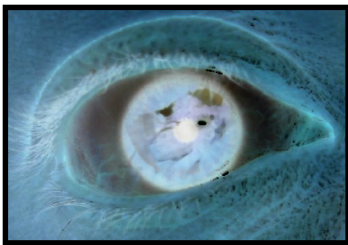
The Lord added two new supporters during the month of August! Our support level is currently at 21%.

Please continue to pray that God would allow us to reach 50% by the end of the year.

Check out Joey's corner on our website! Visit:

See Pictures from the **First Day of School**, as well as **"The Great Marker Incident"**

LASIK Lessons



I've worn glasses or contacts since I was 10 years old. In fourth grade it became apparent that I could not see the chalkboard at school, so I joined the ranks of the nearsighted and glasses became an integral part of my life.

A couple of years ago I went on a canoeing trip with a group from our church and while swatting a bug I accidentally knocked my glasses right off my face and into the river. I jumped in after them, but they were gone. For a couple days I felt like a blind person, unable to drive, to see the computer at work, and to perform even simple tasks without looking foolish. I gained a new appreciation for what visually impaired people must go through on a daily basis.

This past January I was blessed to be able to have laser vision correction. It's something that I never thought would be possible, and through a series of events I was able to have the procedure without cost. After the effects of the surgery went away and I woke up the next morning, I was amazed to find that I could see the alarm clock very clearly while still

lying in bed. My vision was 20/15 in one eye, and I could read road signs that were still very far away. It was incredible! Several times a day I found myself reaching to push up my glasses, only to remember that I no longer had them on. Suddenly I was not tied to these expensive pieces of plastic and metal in order to see. I remember renewing my drivers license and realizing that I no longer needed a rating for corrective lenses. Wow!

It's been almost 7 months since my surgery, and I have to say that I've quickly gotten used to being without glasses. I almost never reach to push them up any more, and I can always tell time at night without having to get up. I have gotten to the place where I take my glasses-free vision for granted.

Something struck me recently as I was in front of a church giving our presentation on Ecuador. I was reading our family's theme verse, I Peter 2:9 which says:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

You see, our job as believers is to share with people the love of the One who rescued us from the darkness of sin. When God's gift of Salvation reaches us, we can see things that we had never seen before, and begin to understand the world the way God sees it. We have the ability to truly love others in an unselfish way, and it's wonderful. The problem is that we quickly get used to living in the light. We forget what it was like to be blind, and we forget the deep, dark, hopeless way that we used to live.

Can I ask you to take a moment right now to close your eyes and just remember? Think about your life before Christ, before you could see, and remember what that was like. Imagine where you might be today if you had continued in that darkness. Hard to think about, isn't it. It really makes you thankful for the Cross. (Continued on p.2)

(LASIK Lessons, Continued from p.1)

I have often wondered what it might be like to watch a blind person receive their sight for the first time. I would love to be in the room when the bandages were taken off, and to have the thrill of watching them enjoy the world of sight for the first time. Incredible! Yet if you've ever had the privilege of leading someone to Christ, you have experienced that, and you remember how excited they are about their new relationship with Christ. Everything is amazing to them, and they are so excited you just can't hold them back.

There are two questions that I think we should each answer every day:

1. Am I still as excited about my relationship with Christ as I was when I first came to know Him?
2. How many spiritually blind people have I met today, and did I show them the Light?

Take a look at the people around you who are living with the nightmare of spiritual blindness. They have no hope of ever escaping that darkness unless we fulfill our calling, the thing we are "set apart" for, which is to share Christ with them. How are we doing?

Praises & Prayer Requests

Praises:

- The addition of two new supporters in August
- God's provision of Christian school for Joey
- Our co-workers, the Davolls, arrived safely in Costa Rica for language school
- Michele's back trouble is much better and she is able to resume normal activities
- We were able to attend an ESL Certification class and are now certified to teach English as a second language

Prayer Requests:

- That we could be at 50% support by the end of the year
- Please pray for us as we set up meetings for 2009, that God would direct us to the right churches to present our ministry
- Our relationship with the Lord and each other
- Wisdom as we seek to set up a new ministry in Painesville teaching English
- Safety while traveling this Fall, and mechanical health for our van



Coffee Cup Challenge

Coffee has become a staple of everyday life for many Americans. Most people cannot think of beginning their day without a cup, whether brewed in a home coffee pot or purchased from a local coffee shop like Starbucks. It's a relatively inexpensive indulgence, and each person has their particular tastes and preferences.

Most people think that supporting a missionary is an expensive undertaking requiring a large financial contribution given either as a lump sum or paid out over a period of months. But in fact the most common financial support missionaries receive costs no more than a daily cup of coffee, or even less. We live in a fast-paced society where its not uncommon for us to swing into a drive-through or stop at a local coffee shop like Starbucks. We might not even think twice about spending \$1.50 (or more) for a cup of our favorite beverage. Would we balk at committing an equivalent amount to support ministry?

Will you consider taking our coffee cup challenge? It has two parts:

First, will you commit to supporting our ministry with a regular monthly contribution equal to the cost of a daily cup of coffee (\$1.00-\$1.50/day or approximately \$30.00-\$50.00/month)?

Second, as you enjoy a morning cup of coffee (or similar morning starter) will you commit to remembering us in prayer as you take those first sips?

We desperately need both parts. Realize that you are not giving to us -- you are supporting the Lord's work and helping to see churches planted in Ecuador. We cannot go without the needed funds to make it possible, but as we go we need the spiritual reinforcement of your prayers on our behalf.

We realize that there are many ministries that you could support financially, and hope you will prayerfully consider what God would have you do. You can join our support team by downloading, completing and mailing the "Intention to Support" form attached to this e-mail. Just add our names and account number #0133393 to the top line.

We would be greatly blessed to know that a broad team of friends are supporting our ministry with their finances and daily lifting us up in prayer. Having that assurance is sweeter than a donut to go with a cup of coffee!

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

Keep up with our travels by checking out our schedule on our website at: www.maynard.abwe.org

- 9/28/08 – Colfax Community Church – Manton, MI (am service)
- Rollins Christian Fellowship Church – Manton, MI (pm service)
- 10/1/08 – 10/5/08 - Joy Baptist Church – Westland, MI (Missions conference)
- 10/15/08 – Scott Lake Baptist Church – Waterford, MI
- 10/18/08 – 10/24/08 – Berean Baptist Church - Livonia, MI (missions conference)
- 10/26/08 – Grace Baptist Church – Monroeville, PA
- 11/2/08 – Emmanuel Baptist Church - Hamlin, NY
- 11/5/08 – 11/09/08 – Grace Baptist Church – Brunswick, OH
- 11/12/08 – Nashville Baptist Church – Nashville, MI
- 11/16/08 – Green Corners Baptist Church - Belding, MI
- 11/23/08 – First Baptist Church – Corry, PA
- 11/30/08 – First Baptist Church – Saint Louis, MI