



Prayer Letter – January 2012

Recent happenings

Adoption is in full swing. We wrapped up ESL classes. We had our end of the 'get away'. We are getting more plugged in with our cross-cultural church. And more....

Latino Ministry

We finished up level 5 of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes in December. The group we work with (Mission Adelante) is a great group and we've really enjoyed it. But...we are going to take a break for a while (for at least a semester). We are spending a lot of time on the adoption and getting transitioned into the cross-cultural church that we are serving in.

We are still 'sorting out' how to be most effective in our Latino ministry for 2012. Where we are focusing our time right now is at our cross-cultural church. Steph and I have both been helping conduct services (sometimes it's a welcome and mini-sermon, sometimes it's reading announcements, sometimes it's bringing lunch for the group after church). We are enjoying this very much as it utilizes our giftings and passion in crossing cultures, hospitality, and leadership. Please pray for us as we continue to work through how to best serve here.

Options that we are thinking about include:

- *ESL classes for church members and the neighborhood
- *After school tutoring
- *Myers-Briggs/Team-building for the church leadership

There are many ways we can serve...but we are trying to be 'smart' about how to best do this with limited time available.

Adoption

Our adoption is taking a lot of time and energy...but it's moving forward ahead of schedule. We don't know for sure, but it looks like we might be able to travel to Bulgaria this Spring to meet Bo for the first time. There are still lots of 'hurdles' (criminal background checks, fingerprint and FBI reports, a Dossier for the Bulgarian Government, etc). But...the Home Study is officially finished and we are excited about that. It took about 3 ½ months for it to be completed, revised, and officially approved – but...it's a BIG step forward in the adoption.

End of the Year 'Get Away'

We've established a routine for an end of the year get away. Sometimes, we do these close to home...sometimes we travel a good distance away. Each year, we reflect on the past year, review plans for the coming year...and just spend some quality time relaxing and seeking God. Thanks to some bonus money from my regular job (and a free flight voucher from past travels) we were able to have a special get away to Costa Rica this year. On Christmas day, we toured a volcano and a rain forest – not your typical Christmas day activities...but we enjoyed it ☺ (Find a few pictures at www.PursuingMeaningfulLife.com)

Prayer:

*How to serve our cross-cultural church well

*For adoption details to continue to move forward so that we could meet Bo in the Spring

*For financial support to continue strongly into Spring and Summer so that we can go on our regular trips to Eastern Europe later this year.

Thanks for the extra financial support that you helped provide at the end of 2011 – we really appreciate that. It's helped us to get a head start for ministry expenses in 2012.

In Him,

Brent and Steph

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