



Lastufkas' Log



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Summer 2008

CA Partners win Gold Medals

During the last half of July I, Michael, visited many of you and spoke at our supporting churches in California. It was a joy to meet some of you for the first time and renew friendships with the others. Thank you for hosting me overnight and providing meals with your personal touch! Many helped out with gas for the rental car and some covered the rest of my expenses. Imagine what the Apostle Paul could have done with travel support from a group like you! Along the way, I got to visit my sisters and parents too.

Special thanks to the Christophers in Simi Valley for hosting me 4 nights, loaning me a car and helping me connect with the rental car, buses and airplanes. They were the glue that held this trip together! Amazingly, I only got lost a couple of times, sticking very closely to the directions I "Googled". On the way from the Yosemite area to the Bay area I found myself between immense fields, all alone on some farm road that turned to dirt. Fortunately, Google Maps includes the distance for each road. Once exceeded, I back-tracked and found the hidden sign I had missed. I was late for my next stop, but the scenery was spectacular!



Sister act - Lesley, Erica and Arin (in front)



Salton Sea, CA with Chocolate Mountains on the right

Translation Editor



Since he's been back, Michael has been helping software personnel in Waxhaw, North Carolina to automate tests for the Translation Editor and ParaText programs. These programs work together to assure translations are consistent and correct.

Yikes - It's Ike!

After a summer of working hard with spaceship Orion's power systems and analyzing space radiation, Arin and Erica came back down to earth with college homework, labs and activities. It was deja vu when Hurricane Ike spun through Houston as Rita did three years ago. Again, Rice University was well prepared to shelter its students safely. Classes are back in session, even though Ike brought extensive damage to the area south of Houston, especially Galveston Island.

Lesley's Life as a Lifeguard

A common misconception about lifeguarding at a pool like the one at the International Linguistics Center is that it's boring. This is totally untrue!

- Funny Talk: "The hula hoop girls have machine guns!" and, "It's time for a nap."
- Sweet: An artistic 5-year-old swimming student gave me a hand-drawn card.
- Heroic: Diving to find a small shard of broken glass.
- Gross: Cleaning the pool after a child "lost her lunch" two days in a row!
- Validating: One very young boy asked his father, "Why is that lady staring at us?"

Mark 9:41 I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

Offices get Greener

All the people in our building are moving out! During the last quarter of the year, our power management and air conditioning will be revamped to be more efficient. At the end of summer, icicles were dripping from my desk! Well, it wasn't that bad, but we did have to wear our parkas and management brought in a portable heater. As part of "greening" the heating and cooling all over the linguistics center, the MKs'* soccer field was dug up to host the elements of a large heat pump. In the end, the center will get better environment control at lower operating cost. The MKs will be happy to get their field back too!

* MK = Missionary Kid

Ryan on Teeth

Wouldn't it be sad to fall off a pogo stick and break two teeth on the concrete? Lesley did that two years ago. For two days she took hefty pain killers, but they didn't stop bleeding for a week. She got temporary dentures but they wouldn't work with her braces. They adjusted the braces to shift the teeth for the dentures. This summer the braces were removed and the dentures fit. She can't say she's a hockey player anymore. In 2010, she hopes to get the two teeth implanted permanently. My teeth aren't broken, but I have to get them fixed at Baylor Hospital over the next couple of years because they stick out so much - the doctor said it is severe.



Ryan

We thank you for your prayers and financial support.

May God bless you!

from Michael and Chewlan Lastufka

Praise

- For Michael's terrific CA visit!
- That Arin and Erica had wonderful internships at the Johnson Space Center this summer.
- That Ryan can have his orthodontic problems treated for a reduced cost.
- For safety at the ILC pool all summer.

Prayer

- For moving our work place temporarily during the last quarter of this year.
- For power to be restored to Houston residents - Erica still does not have it at her apartment as of 9-18-08
- That the Finisher's Project will recruit many to serve with Wycliffe.

Our Missions Website

I look forward to updating the information soon, but I've already put the new pictures and 2007 financial page there. Visit our missions website to get a more detailed look at our work and language software in Wycliffe. The address is: www.lastufka.net/work/

Don't forget to check out the Wycliffe websites:

- www.ethnologue.com
- www.ethnologue.com/lingualinks.asp
- scripts.sil.org and www.sil.org
- www.wycliffe.org and www.jaars.org

Address For Gifts

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