

SEPTEMBER 2013 MINISTRY UPDATE

ANOTHER SCHOOL-YEAR BEGINS...

It is almost hard to believe that Toby is now serving in his **sixth year at the Academy**. It is even harder to believe that he is now in his fifth role in that time at the school; going from part-time teacher to Director:

- 2008-2009 Teaching Apologetics and Music in the Middle & High Schools.
- 2009-2010 Middle School Coordinator (Vice Principal), Teaching Apologetics & Theology in the High School, as well as Music in both Middle & High Schools.
- 2010-2011 Coordinator of Faculty and Staff Spiritual Development Program, Middle School Coordinator, Continued teaching Apologetics, Theology, and the Vocal Ensemble in the High School.
- 2011-2013 Principal of the Middle & High Schools & Coordinator of the VISTA Seminar programs.
- 2013-2014 Academic Director (Superintendent) of the Pre-School—Grade 12 Programs.

This newest position has certainly been the most challenging and demanding; especially during the weeks leading up to the start of the new school year; hiring of staff, training new teachers, organizing schedules, overseeing improvements to the academic program and much more.

Now that the year has started—it certainly has all been worth it. Both faculty and staff are saying that, **“This has been the best start to the school year ever!”**

That reaction, however, is largely due to

the tremendous work of both our Chaplaincy program and our Student Council who organized some great *Welcome Week* activities for our students (e.g. special assemblies, competitions, fun food, and more).

Perhaps **the most memorable moment of *Welcome Week* for Toby** was at the conclusion of one of the assembly programs in which students were invited to gather around a teacher or staff member and pray for them. As Toby's been out of the classroom and in full-time administration over the past few years he has certainly felt more distant from the students. Well, the distance wasn't evident on that day as a group of students ranging from 7th to 12th grade gathered around “Mr. T.” to pray a blessing over his life and his leadership of the school. A special moment.

Toby does continue to hear from his students who are now graduates (especially thanks to Facebook). One of our recent grads (now at university), who studied both apologetics and theology with Toby, sent this note:

“Mr. T., I'm so thankful for the two classes that I took from you, and how much I learned and how I have been prepared for so many conversations that I HAVE had these three semesters. So, be encouraged.”

FAMILY UPDATE...

We have a special **PRAYER REQUEST** for you this month: Pictured here is Blake - the grandson of Toby's sister-



in-law Maria (Matt's wife). So, Toby's step-great-nephew (we think). He was born on June 24th with a genetic brain disorder and needs your prayers. He just had surgery to have a feeding tube inserted into his tummy and a repair to his esophagus. He is in for a long hard road. He's now home—but please keep his parents, Sarah and Ryan in your prayers as well as Grandma & Grandpa Murphy. Thank you so much.



Emma continues to grow into a sweet and active little girl. She has also continued to face some occasional health issues, for which we appreciate your prayers, but on the whole she is a happy and healthy toddler. In fact she has just started attending weekly music and art classes. (Yep, they start 'em young these days). ☺

Tannia is busy as a stay-at-home

Mom—and loving it most days (depending on the hours of sleep). The weekends are precious as Toby's new position is really far more than full-time. So, we treasure every hour together.

We are fully settled into our new apartment and looking forward to hosting family and friends. We're already making plans for our big International Thanksgiving Dinner, which has become an annual event in our home. Come on down and join us!

SUPPORT UPDATE...

Below you will find a chart that provides an update on our support. **We are so thankful to the many of you who make it possible for us to serve here in Ecuador.**



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

2013	Donations + or - Monthly Support Need
January	+ \$ 789
February	- \$1,691
March	- \$1,346
April	+ \$ 84
May	- \$ 1,441
June	- \$ 1,366
July	+\$ 734
August	-\$ 381
Current Need	\$4,618

As you can see we were very encouraged during the month of July (typically a low month for donations). **THANK YOU!**

Please continue to pray with us that not only will this negative fund turn positive, but that we'll finish the last months of this year financially healthier than ever. As we've shared before, it is vital that our support be in place for us to continue to focus our full-time efforts here in Ecuador; and specifically at the Academy.

ALMOST ALL NEEDED POSITIONS FILLED...

We are very happy and thankful to be able to report to you this month that nearly all the open positions that we need-

ed to fill at the Academy have been filled!

We still have a couple openings. If you, or someone you know, is qualified and interested in serving in one of the following positions, please contact our *Human Resources Coordinator*, Lois Wells, at lwells@alliance.k12.ec:

- Medical Doctor certified in "Seguridad Ocupacional"
- Speech Therapist
- Secondary Home Economics Teacher

VISTA BEGINS WITH HELL...

This year's series of VISTA SEMINARS begins on October 5th with "Four Views of Hell". Once again, Toby will be the featured presenter.



The VISTA Seminars provide learning opportunities for professionals throughout the school year that assist participants with developing in their spiritual maturity, expanding their knowledge of the Bible as well as exposing them to theological concepts and disciplines. The program also serves to orient followers of Jesus Christ toward a Christian worldview.

VISTA Seminars meet the standards of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) as official Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and may be applied as credit toward ACSI certification; serving as a source of Professional Development for Christian Educators and Ministry Leaders.



For more information on VISTA be sure and "LIKE" www.facebook.com/vistaseminars.

"DNA" MAGIC GROUP BEGINS...

With the start of this new school year another fantastic opportunity to more closely disciple students also began... the Academy's new DNA Group ministry. "DNA" stands for "Discipleship, Nurture,

ing, and Accountability."

Over twenty of our faculty and staff (including Toby) volunteered to lead DNA small groups this year focused on an activity which they enjoy or have expertise with, through which students will be mentored. Students were presented nearly 30 options and then given the opportunity to indicate which group they would like to participate in.

Well, guess what Toby's DNA group focuses on? Yep....the art of sleight-of-hand! **Guess which DNA group the vast majority of students wanted to join? ...Right again!**

Toby has limited the small group to just 8 students and they have already met for 3 sessions and **are the kids ever pumped!** And so is Toby!

Please pray that through these weekly times together that not only will the students enjoy developing their skills as "magicians" - but far more importantly, that Toby will be able to develop relationships with the students that will open doors for deeper conversations and guidance in what it means to follow Jesus. Thank you.

FINALLY...

As always, thank you so much for your interest in our lives and ministry. Your financial support makes our work possible & your prayer support makes our work powerful.

Please come and visit when you can!

- Emma, Toby & Tannia



YES! I'd like to sign up for Electronic Contribution!

Answers to Questions about Electronic Contributions

<p>Q. What is electronic contribution?</p> <p>A. Electronic contribution is an automatic transfer program that allows you to make contributions <i>without</i> writing a single check.</p> <p>Q. What are the advantages of donating electronically?</p> <p>A. It saves you time! It simplifies your life! You also help the agency office stabilize its budget and save money.</p> <p>Q. How is my contribution automatically deducted from my account?</p> <p>A. Once you authorize the transfer, your specified contribution is electronically transferred directly from your checking account to the RFH's account.</p> <p>Q. When will my contribution be deducted from my account?</p> <p>A. On the date you specify... 6th or 22nd of each Month or Quarter.</p>	<p>Q. If I don't write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight?</p> <p>A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.</p> <p>Q. Without a canceled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?</p> <p>A. Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. Also, Ripe For Harvest will continue to send you a receipt.</p> <p>Q. Is electronic contribution risky?</p> <p>A. Electronic contribution is less risky than check contribution. It cannot be lost, stolen or destroyed in the mail. It has an extremely high rate of accuracy.</p> <p>Q. What if I change bank accounts?</p> <p>A. Ripe for Harvest will provide a new authorization form to complete.</p>	<p>Q. How much does electronic contribution cost?</p> <p>A. It costs you nothing and saves you time!</p> <p>Q. What if I try electronic contribution and don't like it?</p> <p>A. You can cancel your authorization for electronic contribution at any time by notifying Ripe for Harvest by phone. But, once you've enjoyed the convenience, time and money savings of electronic contribution, we doubt you'll want to go back to making contributions the way you did before.</p> <p>Q. How do I sign up for electronic contribution?</p> <p>A. Complete and sign the authorization form below and send to Ripe for Harvest along with a voided check or a savings deposit slip.</p>
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Note: Contributions are solicited with the understanding that *Ripe For Harvest World Outreach* has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds

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Name(s) on Account (please print) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Information: preferred Ripe for Harvest staff member: TOBY TRAVIS # 20245

Contribution Amount \$ _____

- Please debit my ongoing contribution from my (check one):
- Checking Account – **attach a voided check over the Q & A section above**
- Savings Account – **contact your financial institution for the appropriate Routing Number**
- Monthly-6th of the month beginning _____
- Monthly -22nd of the month beginning _____
- Quarterly-6th of the month beginning _____
- Quarterly-22nd of the month beginning _____

I authorize **Ripe for Harvest and Integrity Bank & Trust** to process debit entries from my account. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification of its termination by calling 719-488-4121.

Authorized signature on my account: _____ Date: _____

RETURN TO: RIPE FOR HARVEST

PO Box 487, Monument CO 80132-0487

Phone: 719-488-4121 Fax: 719-955-4010

Make a copy of the completed form for your records.