

Las Vegas Update

**North Las Vegas Baptist Church
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November 8, 2008**

Dear friends and helpers in the ministry,

Sorry for the extended delay in our updates, but we are still getting adjusted to little Anna in the house, and the challenges that come with clothing, feeding, washing, teaching, and playing with the small tornados otherwise known as Rebecca, Sydney, & Eli☺

We are at that time of year that we pause to reflect and give thanks to God for His many blessings. Let us share a few with you. 1) We are thankful for the blessing of this new property and building that God has provided for us. It gives us some other means to have different activities here at the church, and it is certainly a better long term investment of God's resources(i.e owning versus renting). 2) We are thankful for the many, many first –time visitors that God continues to send to our church. We are on course to have about 300 visitors this year, and all of these have had, or will have, an opportunity to hear God's Word and the wonderful message of the Gospel. 3) We are thankful to have the opportunity to go downtown every month to hand out salvation tracts which tells how a person can be saved from their sins through faith in Jesus Christ. The tracts are not always received, but we certainly are able to minister in at least a small way to all kinds of people from all sorts of backgrounds and countries of origin. 4) We are thankful to finally have a few adult helpers volunteer on Wednesday nights, which has allowed us to start an AWANA program. We began this about 3 weeks ago, and it was music to my ears as I heard one of the young kids quoting his Bible verse as I was transporting him and the other kids to church. If God's Word is in their hearts and minds, I truly believe it will impact their lives. 5) I am thankful for God's continuing work in the lives of families that we have known for 6 years now. He won't leave them alone, and that's a good thing! Bad lifestyle choices and the Las Vegas culture have chewed many of these people up, but I see real evidence of God's continued pursuit of them. 6) I am thankful for

God's providential timing and guidance. We have been living at my inlaws' home the last few months as we have searched for a bigger home for our growing family. While living there, we have developed quite a relationship with 2 families that live in close proximity, and they have been regular church attenders during this time. Both are in very difficult circumstances, but we are thankful that we can give them hope found in the God-who-provides. 7) We are thankful for God's financial provision such that we can have these ministries. Although our local congregation has grown some, about 1/3 of our operating budget comes from people outside of our church (people like you). These financial gifts allow us to pay for AWANA books and shirts for the kids that parents will not pay for, to pick up and take home children and youth that have no other means to get to church, and to pay for the church building and its costs. 8) We are thankful for the eleven people who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ this year at our church. 9) We are thankful for the 4 wonderful, fantastic, energy-filled blessings that God has given to Elizabeth and me.....our children. 10) We are thankful for a senior lady named Annie who got baptized last Sunday. Annie, who is in her 60's, could have come up with a lot of reasons not to get baptized, but she obeyed Jesus, and hopefully challenged some other Christians who have never obeyed in this area of baptism.

It is difficult to compress all that happens here into a monthly letter, and living life seems to take up all my time such that I don't have time to write about it☺ We hope that each of you have a wonderful time this month to reflect on God's blessings to you, and hopefully, we'll get you a family picture by the end of the year!

-----The Appersons-----
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