



Greetings from Central Pennsylvania! We certainly had a busy and exciting year!
We'll try to fill you in on all the Lord has done for us this year...



Us with Justin's parents and grandparents at graduation

Justin finished his student teaching at a local public school in Wisconsin. Upon completion of student teaching, he graduated from Maranatha Baptist Bible College with a degree in Social Studies Education (secondary) last December (07). He then stayed on with the same school and substitute taught for the spring semester. I (Christina) continued to work from home for Wilber & Associates during that time.



In February, we took a trip down south to Mobile, AL to visit Justin's brother and family. It was a nice, warm break from the extremely cold winter we were having in WI. We made a road trip out of it, stopping along the way to visit my Great Aunt and Uncle in Tuscaloosa, AL.

[On right: Matt, Shawnee (and baby Kingston), Christina, Gianna, & Justin]



Adam family all together before we move and Jen moves to WY

May was a packed month for us... We started out with Justin's graduation; which also included celebrating Tim's girlfriend, Lizzy's, graduation from Maranatha. Tim & Lizzy have been dating for a little over a year now. Tim will be graduating with his bachelor's degree in December. His future plans are yet to be determined.



Tim & girlfriend, Lizzy

Jen is now teaching at a public school in Wyoming - loving her church and life out there. She has a long-term subbing position for the fall semester teaching special education.

On May 10th, we found ourselves in Bradenton, FL to interview for teaching jobs (Justin interviewed for a Social Studies teaching position, I interviewed for a computer teaching position) at a Christian school. We had a good visit, and met some great people while we were there; but later as we thought and prayed about it, we didn't feel the Lord calling us to that ministry.



Dome of the Rock and the Eastern Gate in the background

We got home from Florida on May 12th, (our 1st anniversary), and spent one night in our own apartment, long enough to grab our next set of suitcases for our trip to..... ISRAEL!

On May 13th – 24th, we headed out with a group of about 30 people from Maranatha for a Holy Land Tour! We were able to share the trip with Justin's grandparents – it was great! My parents sent us on this trip. The opportunity arose because Justin's grandparents were signed up to go, but the deadline was coming near, and they didn't have enough people going. When my parents found this out, they thought it would be a perfect time in our lives to experience what they experienced when they were our age, seeing that we were between jobs, and Justin was

just starting his career in teaching history. Upon our return, we compared pictures with my parents and we had some of the exact same pictures...20 years later! It was a jam-packed 10 days of touring in the Galilee area as well as Jerusalem and other significant locations.

On the Lake of Galilee



Floating in the Dead Sea!

Our tour guide, Gideon, had an amazing knowledge of the Bible. Thanks to his extensive experience, we were able to avoid many crowds. That did, however, sometimes mean getting up before 6 a.m. to eat breakfast and be at the bus by 7 a.m. ... we would return to the



hotel by supper time, eat, and then meet together for a "review of the day". We came home with over 1500 pictures and a priceless experience. Justin has already used the pictures as a teaching tool in his classes. It makes it so much more *real* when you're standing where the Biblical characters stood in the Bible stories you hear in Sunday school. It was incredible! We would definitely recommend the trip if you ever have the chance.

The only down side to the trip was the day we had to sit out of the tour...I caught some sort of virus and was unable to tour for a day – and my wonderful husband stayed back to take care of me. Thankfully, it only kept me down one day.

We were able to do and see so much...including a boat ride across the Lake of Galilee, floating in the Dead Sea, walking the tunnel along the Western wall, seeing the ruins of many cities of the Bible, and even walking downtown Tiberius one night☺ ... So cool!



But that's only through May... once we returned to our home in WI, we packed up once again, and headed for a job interview in Bellefonte, PA. We spent a long weekend taking part in Centre County Christian Academy's graduation festivities and getting to know some more great people. They offered Justin a position teaching high school social studies (history, geography, government, Bible, and PE). We prayed about it, and felt the Lord's definite direction. By the beginning of June, we were planning our move to PA.

June 2nd was also a special date this year...our nephew, Kingston James Monge was born to Matt & Shawnee (Justin's brother) in Mobile, AL. We are anxious to meet him over Christmas when we all go home to IL for the holidays. Gianna, our niece, turned 2 on June 9th. We wish we were closer to be able to see them grow up.



We moved to Bellefonte, PA near the end of July. Justin's dad drove the big moving truck and my parents also came along to help unpack and set up our new apartment in PA...back to the 'ole stomping grounds for them. We're about 2 hours from Carlisle Army base - where my family was stationed for 3 years (when I was young). Bellefonte is a beautiful place nestled in the Appalachian Mountains.

I continued to work at home for the law firm while searching for a local full-time job. After a few weeks and a couple of interviews, I was offered a job as an administrative assistant at Manito, Inc. - an alternative high school. The center is one of many in PA. Manito services 4 different local school districts, taking the kids that have problems in the public school. We have behavioral specialists and counselors that work with the kids, and I've learned a lot just by observing how they interact with the students. It's a safe environment, yet different than anything I've ever experienced before. Pray for these kids. The majority of these students are from very rough family situations and all of them seem so far from understanding the Love of God. All I can do is try to have a consistent testimony.

Justin loves teaching. He only has one prep period during the day - most days - and then he comes home and works on lesson plans and such. He's also involved in helping out with... whatever needs to be done...! The attendance in the school is lower than normal this year. Please pray that the number of students will increase next year, specifically male students. There are just not many guys in the academy, 5th grade on up - the leaders of our nations' future homes!

We have found a church to be a part of, located in State College. The pastor is excellent, with practical, biblical, exegetical messages. It is a smaller church, but has a few younger couples that we have started getting to know.

My parents came to visit over Thanksgiving, which was such a blessing!
We will be heading home for Christmas - and all of our siblings will be joining us there!



We'd love to hear from you! Our new address is: 129 N. Monroe Street, Apt. B, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Our email address is: jcmonge12@gmail.com

If you are out visiting the East coast...stop on by! We're only a couple minutes off I-80, and 10 minutes from State College, PA. Have a wonderful year!

Merry Christmas & wishing you a blessed year...2009!
The Monge's

