

“There ain’t no party like an LBC party!”

Free, Take One!
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VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY
By Rachael Keetch



MATTBROUWER



Lights dimmed, music playing, and laughter in the air--without question this was a celebration like no other! After having filled up on Legends Restaurant’s “oh-so-artery-friendly” buffet of everything our mothers warned us not to touch, over a hundred volunteers topped their bellies off with sundaes loaded with mini m&m’s and caramel sauce. As eating fatigue took its course, Jillian Cormier led our church staff in a performance Dr. Seuss could only envy. Pastor Gord and Sarah Moss attempted to polka dance, Jim Wood gave a call to the wild, Diane

Bustin’s inability to recall anything Charlie Sheen probed the crowd into “WINNING” laughter, and Andrea Woodworth somehow escaped with most of her dignity. On the other hand, Jeff Somers and Rene Robichaud combined their superhero “fuel” together to get a few kicks and giggles from the enthusiastic crowd. All this was to say thank you to those to the many volunteers who are “here to serve”. However, the night was still young. Matt Brouwer - a Maritimer turned Texan - took the stage, with our own Jeff Somers as backup. This newlywed’s music blew us all

off our rockers. Hitting notes only “females and Marc Jolicoeur” could ever dream of hitting, Matt Brouwer shared his incredibly gift of not only singing, but also in sharing his heart. As the night wound down, staff were pumped as they gave away a wide range of prizes including golf shirts, a football, family passes to Magic Mountain, and tickets to see our own Matt Robertson play with the Moncton Miracles! Without a doubt, there ain’t no party like a LBC volunteer party!

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BOOK REVIEW

“Forgotten God” by Francis Chan
Chris Shaw

In the latter part of the 18th century John Wesley penned a number of lectures which were his attempt to coax the people of the church into taking a risk. Wesley writes about growing in the Spirit and in holiness. This month’s book review is not about John Wesley. It is about a book that I believe he could have written the Introduction to.

Francis Chan is becoming one of the voices in the Christian community that speaks truth with a mighty wallop!

His book “Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit” is, at the very least, thought provoking. This is more than an inspirational self-help book, and Chan reflects this in his writing style. Throughout the book he challenges the reader to put down the book and think and pray about what was just read. Only an author inspired with the confidence of the Holy Spirit would ever tell his reader to close the book. He speaks truth and does it with a Christ-like strength and love. He criticizes, but provides solutions. His input is constructive, and not destructive.

He writes:
“From my perspective, the Holy Spirit is tragically neglected and, for all practical purposes, forgotten...There is a gap between what we read in Scripture about the Holy Spirit and how most believers and churches operate today. In many modern churches, you would be stunned by the apparent absence of the Spirit in any manifest way. And this, I believe, is the crux of the problem.”



The spirit of Chan’s message, if you forgive the pun, is that Christians are to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. They are to live in obedience to Christ and to the glory of the Father. We must not quench His work in our lives, caring more for comfort than for holiness. To walk by the Spirit can be to live a life that is counter-cultural to the world in which we live. It’s one thing to talk about what “walking by the Spirit” can be, and another to show it. Chan illustrates this by including sketches of men and women whose lives have been completely transformed as they’ve sought to obey the Spirit’s leading.



A married couple in their 50s fostered thirty-two children and adopted sixteen.

A teenage girl works three jobs all summer to sponsor 14 children.

Thomas Yun, who gave up a fortune in the restaurant business to work at a rescue mission because he believed that God was calling him to serve there.

And Joni, who after being paralyzed as the result of a diving accident overcame overwhelming desires to end her life and instead gave it to God. There is a lot more to Joni’s story but I don’t want to give it all away.

I would highly recommend this book for those who are seeking to not just understand the Holy Spirit’s role in their daily walk, but thirst to experience it. Chan gives a beautiful vision of God drawing us to intimacy, authenticity, repentance, relationship, security, courage, and truth.

MUSIC REVIEW

“Reason to Sing” All Sons & Daughters
Marc Jolicoeur

Do you know who Chris Tomlin is? If not, it’s probably only because Lewisville doesn’t tend to prominently affix the author’s name to the worship songs we sing on Sunday mornings. The man is responsible for “How Great Is Our God”, “Famous One”, “Everlasting God”, and dozens of other staple worship songs of the last decade. Tomlin will be performing/leading worship at Moncton Wesleyan on March 7th, and if I haven’t already given you enough reason to want to pick up a ticket, allow me to sweeten the pot...

Opening for Tomlin on the Canadian leg of his “And If Our God Is For Us” tour will be Nashville-based duo *All Sons & Daughters*, who are out on the road in support of their 2nd release, *Reason To Sing*. The duo’s members (Leslie Jordan



and David Leonard) met while on staff at Journey Church in Franklin, TN, where they still serve as Worship Leaders today. The songs on their current release (like the ones on their debut) were originally written for their home church, and they are quite strong. That said, while these are definitely worship songs, I would have

to describe them as “half-congregational”: The average church body might have difficulty singing along the syncopated melodies of “Oh Our Lord” or the rapid lyrics of “Wake Up”, but the vocal-centric mixing coupled with a somewhat layered choir sound in the background (elegantly produced by Paul Mabury of Hillsong renown) can almost make you feel like you’re in the middle of a crowd singing along, even if you’re actually in the driver’s seat of your Hyundai.



The group’s sound is unique, though it can easily remind you of other notably hip Jesus lovers; most obviously *The Civil Wars* (the boy/girl vocal is nearly retroactively patented by them at this point), but there are also flashes of Sufjan Stevens. The highlight for me is the centre of the record, “Buried In The Grave”. When the *Mumford & Sons* infused bridge explodes with the anthemic lyric “It is won, it is done”, it is a startling reminder that the hope we have as Christians now is the same as it was 2000 years ago.

If there is anything negative to say about *Reason To Sing* it is that it is formulaic: quiet intro + build on the verse and chorus X drop down for the bridge = climax at the last chorus. To tell the truth, this could be said broadly of all popular music. And “formulaic” is really only negative to the degree that you dislike the formula. As an artistic utilitarian, I have no problem sticking with what works, and whatever these guys are doing is working just fine.

APP WORLD

Last month we featured 5 great app suggestions for Android. This month, **Chris Dail** brings us 5 great apps for iPhone users.



Skype – Need to make a long long-distance call? Use Skype instead of your precious cell-phone minutes. Skype allows free video or audio calling to other iPhones, Android phones, PCs or Macs. Keep in touch for free.



WeatherEye – WeatherEye is more than a current temperature app. It allows you to have multiple cities saved, short and long range forecasts and even hourly forecasts. Wonder when it is going to rain this afternoon? Now you know.



Shazam – Ever hear a song when you are out and about and wonder what the name of it is? Shazam! Shazam will listen to the song through your phone and tell you the title and artist.



YouVersion – YouVersion is the bible you always have with you. Download multiple different translations so you can read anywhere and anytime. It also includes reading plans and many other features.



iHandy Level – Need to hang a picture frame and make sure it is level? Grab your phone! iHandy Level will allow you to use your phone as a level.

RECIPE CORNER

The big game is here! Do you have your snacks figured out? We've got 2 great grub options for you, no matter which side of the ball your allegiances lie!

NEW YORK HOT DOG**Ingredients****Onion Sauce:**

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions, cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon chilli powder
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

Also:

- 8 hot dogs, boiled
- 8 hot dog buns
- Spicy brown mustard, as needed (recommended: Gulden's)
- Cooked sauerkraut, as needed

Directions

Onion sauce: Heat the oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until they are soft. Stir in the honey, cinnamon and chilli powder and cook for 1 minute. Add the ketchup, water, hot sauce, salt and black pepper. Bring to a simmer and cook until the sauce thickens, about 10 to 15 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and let it cool to room temperature before serving.

Assembly: Put the boiled hot dogs onto the buns. Spread the bottom half of each bun with some mustard and top each hot dog with the onion sauce or sauerkraut or both.

Thanks to:
<http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/bobby-flay/new-york-street-cart-dog-recipe/index.html>

**BOSTON BAKED BEANS**

- 3 cups dry navy beans, soaked overnight or boiled for one hour
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 6 slices thick cut bacon, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 cup brown sugar (or a combination of brown sugar and maple syrup)

Directions

1. Drain soaking liquid from beans, and place them in a Slow Cooker.
2. Stir ketchup, water, molasses, onion, mustard, salt, bacon, and brown sugar into the beans until well mixed.
3. Cover, and cook on LOW for 8 to 10 hours, stirring occasionally if possible, though not necessary.



Have an idea for Connect? Email connect@lewisvillebaptistchurch.com



Down in Kidsville the Elementary age kids are in the middle of Bible Memory Bash 2012. The current 8-week lesson series is called "Winter Extreme" with a winter sports competition (the X Factor Games) theme. It teaches the children how to be disciples of Jesus and what that means. Each week there is a Bible verse that goes along with the lesson to reinforce what they have learned. It is so important and so valuable for your children to commit scripture to memory. This is the age they absorb it and retain it!

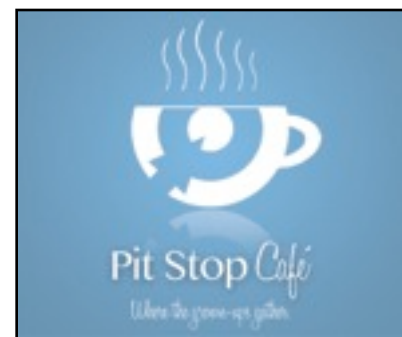
Each week, from January 8th to February 26th the kids will be given a new memory verse card that they collect on a ring and take home with them. At the end of 8 weeks if they have memorized all eight verses and are able to say all of them by themselves to one of the Main Street leaders they will be rewarded with their own "X Factor" medal and a Victory Party in early March to celebrate their achievement. So far there are about 10 kids participating in the memorization challenge.

Please encourage your children to be a part of this activity. They need you to be their cheerleaders and coaches. The true reward is not in the medal or in the party but in the truths that they will hide in their hearts!

Watch for an appearance by these young people during a Sunday service in March as they demonstrate their memorization skills and challenge us as a congregation to learn some of these verses along with them.



BIBLE MEMORY BASH!

PIT STOP CAFE

January 18, 2012 saw the official opening of the latest room to have a complete overhaul - The Pit Stop Cafe! (formerly and affectionately known as The Sunshine Room off the old sanctuary). After a few coats of paint, a furniture update, curtains and a brewing pot of coffee, the room was ready to welcome parents and caregivers of our Speedway attendees on Wednesday nights. A few curious heads poked in the first night but week two saw a dozen or more come to a "screeching halt" and enjoy some coffee and conversation at The Pit Stop Cafe while they waited for Speedway to close for the night. A perfect chance to connect with our community! As it turns out, the room has also attracted a number of committees and groups to its comfy, relaxed atmosphere so it's become a regular "pit stop" all week where folks can recharge their batteries and make good connections! If you haven't yet, slow down, pull in and check it out!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Compassion is not a word that gets frequent use in this day and age. Aside from hearing about Compassion International (and the Canadian arm, Compassion Canada), we don't hear the word much in popular culture. By the way – Compassion has a strong ministry of encouraging people to sponsor children and their families and even communities to give gifts to help with education, food, shelter, water, medical help – various kinds of need and distress.

Google the word 'compassion' and online sources will say that as a trait, compassion is a virtue. It is where the emotional capacities of empathy and sympathy get involved with love itself. Compassion is seen by many as one of the highest principles in philosophy, society or in individual persons – the opposite of 'base' responses like cruelty, indifference and apathy. Compassion is spoken of as being conscious of the distress of others coupled with the desire to do something to help.

For the Christ-follower, compassion is a very important topic for consideration and action. In Matthew 9:35-36, the scripture says that Jesus was moved with compassion and both taught and healed those who had different kinds of diseases and who were distressed and scattered like "sheep without a shepherd" – certainly a picture of stepping into the gap for those who had no place to turn.

So, what is our responsibility as 21st century believers in matters of compassion? We should no doubt follow Jesus' lead in these things, right? What can and should that look like? Are there places where we need to step into the gap? This coming month (February – "heart month"), we are going to take a closer look at compassion during our morning worship times. What is it? How can I have this stirred in my own heart?

Just something to think about as we head into this... the English word 'compassion' comes from two Latin words fitted together to form a new word. One serves as a prefix 'com' (from 'cum') meaning 'with'. The 'passion' part comes from the Latin verb 'patior' – to suffer. Pati forms the root for another English word – 'patient' (literally means 'one who suffers'). Pati – to suffer; com – with; put them together...compassion = to suffer with.

Jesus came not only to suffer for the world, He came to suffer with the world. The Apostle Paul, in Philippians 3:10 says that he wants to "...share the sufferings of Christ...". Things that make you go ... 'Hmmm'.

So, what will that mean for you and me? God willing, we will explore that more fully in the month of February in our new series called "Pulse". During that month, the week of February 20-25 there will be some opportunities during what we're calling "Compassion Week". Really hope that you'll be able to be here each Sunday and be part of the teams that will be reaching out in Jesus' name during Compassion Week. A very wise man (though I can't remember who!) once said that the longest of journeys starts with one step. Looking forward to all of us taking some 'first steps' in the days just ahead.

In His Grip,



"I would rather make mistakes in kindness and compassion than work miracles in unkindness and hardness."



COMPASSION WEEK February 20-25

As the culmination of our February message series, "Pulse", we're going to take on a variety of compassion projects for our community. This is another chance for the church family at Lewisville to be the hands and feet of Jesus and show our community that we truly are "here to serve". There will be a wide variety of projects - something for everyone - and we will need all hands on deck! There will be opportunities to sign up for all the various roles in each of the projects throughout the month of February, so find your spot and get on board!

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

FREE COFFEE DRIVE-THRU

That's right, we're going to offer a free coffee drive-thru for our community on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings of that week from 7-9am!

SENIORS SOCIAL

A sandwich and tea social for the seniors in our community, featuring some great food, games and even the VON on hand for some medical help and advice (Thursday).

FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

On the Friday evening, our lead team for this project is working toward assembling a coffee house/silent auction to raise funds for our local food bank.

SINGLE MOM SPA DAY

Saturday will be a day of pampering for single moms. Hair, make-up, nails, coffee & snacks and even free childcare. Even car detailing while you relax!

As you can see, there are LOTS of opportunities to be involved! Don't miss out on this chance to put your faith into action! (Sign up after church services on Sundays or contact the church office for more info.)

here to **serve.**

THE VIEW FROM GUATEMALA

An Interview with Lee VanBuskirk

Lee VanBuskirk is known for being a "Here to Serve" kind of guy, but recently he had the experience of being "There" to Serve – "There" being Guatemala in Central America. Lee was part of a team that spent a week building homes for needy families. We chatted with him a bit about his experience.

CONNECT: Welcome back, Lee. We're glad you had a safe and rewarding trip. Can you start by telling us a bit about the team you took this journey with and how you came to be a part of it?

LEE: The team consisted of 20 members from the Shediac Community Church (+6 others from Fredericton). I became involved because of my brother-in-law who attends the Shediac CC. This is something I've always wanted to do so I was happy to get on board. The church sponsored several fundraisers to support the trip: chili supper, auction, bottle drive, etc., and I was fortunate to receive some kind donations from friends and family. We were each responsible for our own transportation costs.

CONNECT: What organization did your team partner with in Guatemala?

LEE: We partnered with "Impacto Ministries" – they are a missions outreach organization and minister in communities in several different ways: church planting, building houses, "Happy Tummies" (they feed children, provide tutoring for schoolwork, and teach them the Bible through stories and games) "Happy Feet" (they hold clinics where they wash the children's feet and then have volunteer nurses and doctors who check and treat them. They have no covered shoes, usually, and so are vulnerable to injury and parasites, etc.) This reminded me of Jesus and how He was the example of serving this way.



CONNECT: What were your first impressions of Guatemala?

LEE: It took 17 hours of travel to reach Guatemala City, where we stayed in a hotel the first night. The next morning, we traveled by bus to our destination, and my first impression was what beautiful countryside it was. That, along with the amazing driving skills of our bus driver! There were lots of steep hills, drop-offs with no guardrails, narrow roads and hairpin turns. The scenery was very contrasting: extreme poverty in some areas and other parts, particularly a rich valley area, where it seemed prosperous and modern.

CONNECT: What did your work day look like?

LEE: Our crew's assignment was to lay cement bricks to construct a house for a family of five. The finished house measured 10 ft. x 20 ft. and had one window and one door (no coverings on them). (I was happy that we were able to donate the money to give them coloured cement for their floor – this is something the wife really wanted but never dreamt she would be able to have as it "costs extra" so it was a fun surprise). The whole team built five houses in all.

CONNECT: Did you have opportunity to experience their church or worship with them?

LEE: We went to a church service in Guatemala City (where they prayed over the "Gringos") and also went to a Wednesday night service in San Juan. Church there is much more informal. Prayers, as interpreted to us, were very simple and very personal. The congregation in San Juan was about 25 people; the Children's Choir sang, and the adult choir (all 5 of them!) also sang. The people were all so expressive of their gratitude and were very affectionate to us.

CONNECT: Tell us about the family you were building the house for and a bit about the Guatemalan people in general.

LEE: The family we built the house for was a Mom, Dad, and three boys ages 9, 7, and 5. They had lost their home and everything in it in a mudslide. (previously they had lost another home due to a lake rising). They were living with extended family – 14 people in three rooms. Furniture was minimal, and the wood stove was always going: it made the house very smoky and smelly. Family income would be about \$3.00 per day that the Dad made picking coffee beans, and the Mom did a bit of weaving. The children went to school half days.

They washed their clothes (and themselves – completely clothed!) in the lake, where we observed the town's drainage system flowing out nearby!

Their lack of the many "things" that we enjoy here does not affect their joy of living – they are such happy and contented people. We never heard angry words – no yelling at each other; always so genteel and polite (even in traffic!!!)



CONNECT: What was one of the most rewarding parts of the trip for you?

LEE: We were given great advice when we started the project. We were told: "we know how 'you North Americans' are – you're driven and may tend to get focused on your labour and getting things done. You need to remember you are doing more here than building a house – building relationships with the people and showing them God's love, especially the children, is just as important. Remember to take the time to do that." So we enjoyed playing with the kids and doling out the candies we had all brought to give them. (Even their old, leathery Granny hobbled over and stood with them one day with her apron held out to receive some goodies for herself and Grampa!) The children were really affectionate and grateful for our attention. They were all so beautiful! Enjoying them was one of my favorite parts of the trip.

When the house was finished, we had a prayer and dedication time – it was very emotional for all of us. The Mom spoke about how grateful she was and was especially moved over the attention that we showed to her children. She was so touched that we took the time to play with them.

CONNECT: Besides the kids, are there any other special memories you'll take away?

LEE: Because of the donations that I was able to take with me, I was able to get a little "shopping list" for the family to leave some extra things for them. On this "wish list", the Mom included: a chest of drawers, 4 or 5 small chickens, "real, covered-in" shoes for the kids (they had only ever had flip flops or sandals; even used shoes would cost them 3 days pay!); some groceries – oil, corn, black beans, powdered milk, sugar, salt, etc. It was rewarding to be able to provide these extras for her and her family. I asked the interpreter what I could add to the list that would be a real "treat" for the family. He replied without hesitation: "Cornflakes"!!! One of the little boys ran out to me after receiving the goodies and with eyes as big as saucers rambled off a great many animated words that I didn't understand but ended the whole conversation with a big exclamation: "CORNFLAKES"!!! He then tore back to the house as quick as he could, I assume to enjoy a bowlful! I loved it!!

CONNECT: If you had to pick one word to describe the experience of this trip, what would it be?

LEE: AWESOME!! (But if I could choose two more, I would definitely say "Emotional" and "Rewarding")

CONNECT: Thanks, Lee, for sharing your adventure with us.



MISSIONS UPDATE

Aaron & Erica Kenny

The Kennys recently facilitated a conference involving 18 pastors of the North East Province capital of Garissa and their CBM colleagues. Aaron says, "Together we have been blessed to fellowship with this courageous group of Christian leaders who shepherd Christ-followers in a community which has become increasingly volatile over the past year. In many ways this has been a historic gathering as the Garissa pastors have committed to work together in mutual support and cooperation for the strengthening of God's Kingdom and the building up of the Body of Christ. Moreover, they have demonstrated great sensitivity and wisdom as they seek to build peace and live out the love of Christ toward their Muslim neighbours."

This past year has been an extremely difficult time in Kenya's North East Province where threats and attacks against churches, public sites and individuals has become rampant. Please keep these pastors and their churches in your prayers, and remember the communities of Garissa that have suffered from insecurity and the militant activities of El Shabbab.

A note of praise: Three months to the day after being kidnapped by Somali militants, the Kennys friend Jessica Buchanan and her colleague Poul Thisted were rescued by Navy SEALs on January 25th. Jessica and Poul had been working for a Danish relief organization providing aid to 450,000 Somali refugees on the Somalia-Kenya border. According to news reports, the two hostages were not injured during the rescue operation and are reported to be in relatively good condition. Both Jessica and Poul were reunited with their families early last week.

Ron & Catherine Albinet

Ron is currently teaching a Christian History course in Istanbul, which is, for the first time, being taught through the stories of historical Christian figures. They have looked at some interesting topics like the Black Plague, the story of the Czech reformer Jan Hus and the persecution of the Anabaptists at the time of the Reformation. The story of the great William Tyndale and the English reformation, and the violent reaction to the Protestants in France will be some of the topics in the last couple of sessions. He will probably also be giving these Christian History seminars at a fellowship on the southern coast of Turkey beginning later this month, as well as working on one sermon this month for a Turkish fellowship.

He also recently finished teaching a four-week course on Suffering on Sunday afternoons in the city of Bursa, a couple hours south of Istanbul with about 20 attending. The students were keen participants as they talked about truly listening to those going through difficult times, serving God when it seems thankless, and trusting that their perseverance and faith are winning an unseen battle. Ron asks that we remember this fellowship in our prayers. Seeking to remain strong and grow in their faith, they are a very small minority in a city of 2.6 million people.

Rebecca Alward

Early in January, Rebecca was in Oruro for the National Jovenes (young adults) Campamento for 5 days. She led two workshops as well as being available for any girls who wanted to talk about whatever was on their minds. She then returned to La Paz for a night to celebrate New Years with the Guthries, and then headed back to Tarija.

* Sunday night (Feb. 12) at 5:30pm, **Paul & Kelly Carline** and their sons, Kelvin & Kenan, will be with us for a potluck meal to update us on their work in Africa. All are invited to attend and hear what God is doing among the Somali refugees.

PEOPLE PROFILE

Lloyd & Maria Taylor

We're starting a new feature here in Connect to help us get to know each other. Just a brief questionnaire of some fun facts about people at LBC. First up are Lloyd and Maria Taylor!



How did you meet and how long have you been together?

We met in 1981 when Lloyd came to Moncton to obtain his Pilot License.

How many members in your family?

There are four of us - two sons named Robert (27) and Joel (22).

How long have you been part of Lewisville Baptist?

We came to Lewisville in September of 2000.

What is your favorite date activity as a couple?

Dinner and a movie.

What is your favorite meal/food together?

Maria's world famous nachos!

What is your favorite movie or TV show to watch together?

Harry's Law or Blue Bloods.

What was your favorite vacation as a family?

Family reunion in Millertown, Newfoundland in 2000 - over 75 Taylor look-a-likes!

What is your dream vacation as a couple?

Italy - fall 2010. Next? Somewhere with a new ragtop.

What is typically in your CD player/iPod when you're driving together?

No music - our chance to chat and get caught up!

What was the best/worst gift you've received from each other?

Lloyd:
Best - 12 string guitar (Don Taylor made)
Worst - Still waiting (if you don't count underwear???)
Maria:
Best - Lloyd sold his new motorcycle to finance Maria's new Real Estate career.
Worst - (joke gift) dollar store mini rake as a back scratcher.

What is one thing/activity you love that the other person can't stand?

Lloyd - guitar practice (no sense of time).
Maria - watching home decorating or real estate shows. (although this provides a great chance to sneak away and play my guitar... Ha!)

What is the best/funniest/favorite memory as a couple that you can share?

Funniest - Candle lit evening that resulted in a pillow fire (although I will admit that it wasn't much fun at the time).
Best/favorite - wading across knee deep water in the central square in Venice at high tide as the cold water pushed up through the cobblestones. (kinda bizarre)

What is one thing God has been teaching you as a couple/family lately that you can share?

Trust - as we look back, needing to recognize and trust Him. Moving to Moncton and Lewisville. Trusting His direction on Maria's career. Inviting parents to live in.

What is one (good natured) thing people would be surprised to know about you as a couple?

Maria is older... but not by much... (I was forced to say this!) AND - we still act like teenagers around each other.