



July 2004
Victoria Falls

There she goes! Ligaya, bungee jumping at Victoria Falls! No, Maria did not take the picture. But I am getting ahead of the story. Ligaya just finished her first year of teaching in Brooklyn, NY. As a fourth grade Special Education teacher, she experienced everything from the joy in helping a

child learn to read to the bitter injustices of an under-resourced school system (she had to apply for a mini-grant in order to supply her kids with PENCILS!). In between lesson-planning, phoning parents, and recuperating from a hyperactive class she is working toward her a Masters degree in Education at St. John's University. Highlights of the year include: traveling to Toronto to see her old friend Susan get married, moving to Brooklyn, sitting with thousands of new teachers at the New York City Teaching Fellow's induction ceremony in Madison Square Garden, watching some of her students perform at the world famous Apollo theatre, making model volcanoes, paper airplanes, pop-up books, and balloon-powered cars with the kids, and watching the sunset behind a skyline of skyscrapers. And then summer came and she decided to hang out with Maria who was not in Spokane in July but traveling in Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, and Malawi doing workshops on eLearning and ICTs for development. Ligaya caught up with Maria at a conference planning session in Pretoria. Ligaya and Maria then spent the weekend in Cape Town and did the wine tour with a quick look at the penguins, alas only at the aquarium. Then it was on to Lusaka and to Livingstone and Victoria Falls. Ligaya did her extreme sports, including white river rafting and that jump while Maria surfed the Internet in Lusaka as part of a workshop on using the Internet for teaching and learning.

Meanwhile, back in Spokane James is still teaching at the Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University. This year he did take a short sabbatical which he spent mostly in Portland, Oregon. He is back teaching, advising graduate students and reading dissertations. In addition, James keeps busy with his political work with the Democrats, his social justice work with the Unitarian



Universalist, and his studies to be a minister. His Gonzaga program has a partnership with the University of Pretoria. During the year he has met up with Maria in Cape Town and in Dakar.



David writes that he has enrolled in a military style fitness program to get into shape. Tough love combined with pushups, sit-ups and running (and a judicious revamp of his diet) has indeed made a difference- not only in a physical way but in some odd mental ways as well. In a place where everyone is addressed by a call sign (examples include: smilie; GQ, Four, Strong Island, Ice) or a last name, David has gotten used to quite a few friends calling him "BB". In January David went to LA for a week for work. Impressions Games was finishing up Lords of the Realm III (in stores now) and a team was sent to LA to deal with the corporate masters (tm) Vivendi Universal. All work and no play is no good, so David did spend a Saturday at the beach with his coworkers. Lords III was finished and Impressions Studios was closed. David had been aware of this possibility and had been interviewing at Tilted Mill Entertainment, so he had a job lined up. And in-between, David ran off to St Martin for a week where he swam with trained dolphins, sat in the sun, and watched sunsets over the ocean. David returned to Massachusetts and began an even stricter exercise regiment as he prepared for The Camp Pendleton Mud Run in San Diego California. He finished the race (which was his stated goal) and came back to work at the new video game where he is being groomed to be a producer for future video games. In the meantime he has been looking at going back to school, maybe business school and medical school.

The last time you heard from us was in April 2003, a month before Ligaya's graduation from Reed. You can consider this an early annual letter from the Beebes. Come and visit James and Maria in Spokane, David in Boston and Ligaya in Brooklyn, NYC.

Best regards,
James, Maria, David and Ligaya

