

The Lowedown

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF DAVE & JENNIFER LOWE

September, 2004

Repainting our Ministry

Last month, Jen asked me if I was up for painting the living room in our house.

It sounded like a good idea. After all, we've lived in this house for over 4 years and had never painted the living room.

It needed it. In fact, the previous owner had painted everything the same. The ceilings, the walls, the trim, and the baseboards were all ugly dingy, flat white.

We decided to look at some color schemes to get an idea of what colors to paint the room.

On the paint company's website you can pull up a sample living room and with one click of the mouse you can instantly change the main color, the trim or the accent color.

It was amazing how easy it was to see the whole room change just with one click of the mouse. We started to envision the change that would take place in our living room. And for one brief moment, I fooled myself into thinking that it would be just as quick and easy as clicking the mouse on my computer.

Unfortunately, it's never as quick and easy as it looks. What we thought would take only a few days ended up taking us two weeks.

First we had to move all the furniture in order to get to the walls.

Then, before we could even get to the painting part, we had to prep the walls by filling in all the holes. We also had to remove all the baseboards because the plan was to replace the baseboards with a new, more classic looking trim.

When we finally got around to painting, it took longer than we anticipated.

The vision called for one color on the bottom half with another color on the top, and a chair rail separating the two.

The bottom half wasn't too bad, but the top part was a bit more complicated, mostly because we were attempting to create an antique texture via a faux finish glaze technique.

We got out the instructions and followed them exactly. First we painted the based coat on the top half of the wall and we let it dry. Then we painted our

glaze top coat in a 3 foot square section on the wall.

We then applied a thin sheet of plastic over the paint and used a wallpaper brush to smooth it out.

We were instructed to do the same thing with the next section, being sure to overlap the previous section with the plastic. After completing the whole wall, we peeled off the plastic on the entire wall.

When we removed the plastic sheets, we noticed that our technique had produced visible borders around each square section. At first we thought they would disappear when the paint dried, but we soon realized that they were here for good.

All of our work did not produce the desired results. We realized that we could not leave the room with these visible squares, so we opted to paint over it using an antique technique suggested by a different paint manufacturer.

It actually turned out pretty nice, but it took more time, and it cost us more money to finish.

After the paint was finally dry, we still couldn't move the furniture back because I had to paint and install the chair railing,

the baseboards and the crown molding.

I thought about how much our living room paint job is like our ministry.

When we first came to Davis six years ago, we had visions of a ministry that would reach every student and impact the entire campus. Sometimes it's easy to think that changes like that can come quickly. As a result, we sometimes get frustrated when they don't happen as quickly as we thought they would.

A friend of mine gave us some great advice when we first got here. He said, "Time is your friend. Less happens in one year than you would hope, but more happens in five years than you would ever dream."

He encouraged us to not expect all of our dreams to be fulfilled in one year, but instead to operate on a five year plan.

It's been six years now and we have seen more accomplished than we could ever have dreamed.

Now we have new dreams of expanding our ministry and reaching every ethnic and affinity group on campus. We dream of sending a significant number of laborers into the harvest through summer projects and full-time missions.

But these dreams will not be realized instantly even though we can picture them in our minds.

In order to see these dreams come to fruition, there will be a significant amount of work. We'll need to move some things around and some of the things we try will not produce the desired results. We'll have to redo things at times in order to get to where we need to go.

But just like our living room, it will be worth it in the end. When we see the finished result, we'll rejoice at what God has done and all the work that went into producing it.

Please pray for us as we enter our seventh year at UC Davis. Pray for patience as we seek to work towards the vision that God has given us.

Thanks for your part in making dreams come true!

Please Pray

- Pray for this year's freshmen class. We are praying for 120 freshmen to get involved.
- Pray for our different Ethnic ministries: **Epic** (Asian American), **Impact** (African American), **Destino** (Mexican American/Latino) and **Oasis** (Middle Eastern). Pray that these groups would all see significant growth.
- Pray for our staff team and our student leaders. Pray for unity and for a godly vision.