

December 28, 2006

Hello everyone,

We hope all is going well with you and your family. We've enjoyed seeing and hearing from many of you, and we wish we were better about keeping up with everyone.

It's been a couple of years since our last letter, and a lot has happened. First and foremost, we welcomed another beautiful girl into the world. Jazaniah (pronounced "jay-zuh-nie-uh") Grace was born September 19th of this year. Jaza has been a very peaceful baby, which is exactly what her parents needed.



The kids are all doing well. The older four have been taking piano lessons. It seems the sound of music is always filling the air in our home, and it is amazing how much they have progressed in less than two years.

Blaise, Hope, and Si went on a mission trip with Dad to El Paso, TX and Juarez, Mexico last year. It was their first time to do anything like that and they loved every minute of it. That was followed by a family trip to El Paso, and as one thing led to another... guess where we are moving? That's right. This spring we are planning to move with a group of about 30 adults to start a church in El Paso. Several great friends from our Greeley and Ft. Collins churches will be going along so we are looking forward to joining forces to start something new. However, our church family here in Greeley is precious to each of us, so we will certainly miss the many good friends we leave behind.



For those who are not familiar with El Paso let me describe it. It's just like Iowa (where we grew up) but without the corn, beans, trees, grass, or any other form of vegetation. There isn't any snow, or water for that matter. That explains the lack of living green things. The city is around 600,000 people, and is a stone's throw from Juarez, Mexico which has a population of about 1.4 million. It's about 80% Hispanic, and the people are very warm and receptive to discussing the things of God. That's what we like about it! We'll give you an update on our level of 'culture shock' next Christmas!

Kathleen has been homeschooling the oldest four which has kept her very busy. She took a break from teaching her motherhood classes so that Steve could concentrate on a writing project. Her next class is in January, so she is getting all pumped up again! She is expecting over 100 mommies to join her for an overnight conference.

We've got a website now that has some parenting articles as well as some pictures of our family (www.premeditatedparenting.net). Steve compiled some of these articles and wrote a number of new ones to form his new book, "Premeditated Parenting." The book was published in June and the feedback has been awesome so far. We hope that it really helps parents of preteens to apply biblical principles in their homes. It's available at our website and Amazon.com.



Jireh (3) is getting big and is full of energy. He had a wrestling accident early in the 2005. It was pretty cute to hear ol' peg leg walking through the house like a pirate. Ji is a lot of fun, very ornery, and is a living super action figure (at least in his mind!).

Malia (almost 5) is starting a little bit of pre school work. She is curly and squirrely and is her own unique little person. She can be as quiet as a mouse, or she can come alive and talk your ear off. She loves to color and color and color some more. Lately, she has been the most excited about doing chores around the home. It's funny to see her want to be 'a big kid'.

Keziah (7) cruised through Kindergarten and is well into first grade. She reached a milestone in our church memory program last year by quoting 50 memory verses word-for-word, and has been continuing to add to those. As her middle name implies, Kez has been a "joy" to our home and continues to love to be with Mom and Dad.

Silas (9) is our little Tigger. He bounces whenever he is excited. Whether talking, eating, or playing video games, it makes no difference to him. He bounces. Silas and his older siblings just finished the 100 verse milestone in our memory verse program, so that has been a big part of his life. He loves school and is in danger of finishing way too early. It may be time to add a little español.

Hope (11) loves doing crafts of all kinds. She has been taking sewing lessons and has made pajamas, a sewing bag, and a blouse. Hope finished reading through the New Testament this year, and loves reading in general. Oftentimes, one can find her reading on the couch early in the morning before anyone else is stirring. She has a sweet disposition and loves to help in Sunday school. She is growing into quite the young lady.

Blaise (13) is starting to learn some guitar and should bypass Dad's limited abilities within a few months. He has been doing a great job running the Power Point at church and looks forward to playing a key role in the start of a new church. The transition to public school has started, and he is now taking Spanish and Advanced Language Arts at Heath Middle School. Needless to say, he loves every minute of it! He has been getting to know a few friends there and has been experimenting with how to best share his faith with his classmates.

Thanks for your love, support, and friendship! May God bless you richly in the coming year!

Love,

The Nelsons

*But God demonstrates
his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8 NIV*