



Tidings of Joy

"Let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; let those who love Your Name be joyful in You." Psalm 5:11

Dear Friends and Family,

The holiday season is, for many of us, a time of reflection, thanksgiving, joy, and hope. As 2010 draws to a close, we are grateful for the Lord's protection and provision throughout this year. There were many opportunities for us to feel lost, frustrated, or alone. Through God's grace and faithfulness and through our friendships and relationships with you at home, we have been able to minister in Zambia with much joy. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and support, as we serve the Lord in Africa.

Highlights in the Field

This year we experienced an unexpected blessing: we got to see the fruit of many years' labor. Throughout the last 18 months, I visited a lot of pastors, church leaders, and



Monica, 2 ½; Frederick, 10 months



Working on Bemba with Mrs Mbola. Her help has been a Godsend!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ who I've been ministering to for the last decade. In quite a few villages I found that they have taken the materials, Bibles, and books and applied them in their lives and schools. In some cases they have begun widespread missionary work of their own. One example of this is my friend Ruben. Several years ago I held a discipleship workshop in his village. We focused on the definition and practices of a godly family. Pastor Ruben now laughingly shares of the many births the village saw in the ensuing years, and the families now working to build a godly foundation for their children. Nothing has ever encouraged me so much as seeing how the Lord can use my small efforts to affect a community for Him.

We are working on learning Bemba, the primary language in Northern Zambia. In the past, we traveled so much that learning any one language was not practical. Practicing our vocabulary with the Zambians has been an entertaining (for them at least) means of establishing connections and building relationships. Your word for the day: Mulishani (moo-Lee-SHAH-nee), which is hello/how are you.

The Bibles that we brought into Zambia last year in the container have been distributed with a speed and effectiveness that comes from the Lord's hand in bringing the right people forward to receive them. We are blessed to live near Operation Mobilization's Pro Christo missionary training base. Through their classes, we've been able to help train African missionaries and distribute Bibles to pastors from as far afield as Ghana, Congo, and Chad. The need for Bibles in Africa is so tremendous, we prayed for the Lord to send forward the people who could use them most. Giving the Word of God to African missionaries who will take it into the world is a particular joy to us. We are thankful for God's grace and provision in this project.

Random acts

Aside from our usual work and activities, this year we've gotten to do a few really fun projects. When we moved into our little house I built several bookcases. They look great, and we finally have a place for all our books! In October I decorated a 3 layer, filled wedding cake for some missionary friends. I did this in real missionary style- the decorator bag was a Ziploc reinforced with packing tape, and the cake board was foil-covered cardboard! It was a challenge to decorate, as the average daily temperature was around 100 (and NO air-conditioning!)

Ashley has been learning to make cheese. Because most cheeses are imported into Zambia (and I don't recommend the ones that aren't), it is a luxury item. She can now cheaply keep us supplied with cream cheese and feta. She made a cheddar... but it exploded. We'd like to get a goat in the future, which will broaden our possibilities even further.

Monica is growing up in a very multi-lingual environment. We speak English at home, her best neighbor buddy, Dian, speaks Afrikaans, and the Zambians speak Bemba. We are praying for the Lord's grace in helping her learn and use all these languages!

Left: Ashley's first successful/hard cheese

Below: newlywed missionaries Julie and Werner preparing to cut Timothy's cake.



“Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants, You have perfected praise.”
Matthew 21:16



Funny Moments with Monica & Frederick

They say that the best moments in life are the ones spent laughing. Well, then we've had a very good year! Monica is our funny monkey. There is nothing she loves more than coaxing a loud laugh out of "her bruh-ler, Freh-gick". She entertains us with her odd temperament (do NOT rearrange her shoes) and her love for all things animal-related. She has embraced the Africans whole-heartedly, although she has already figured out which foods taste... less than palatable.

Frederick is Mommy's little cling on. He's pretty much convinced that all of life's crucial aspects can be accomplished from his perch on Mommy's hip. He's a happy boy who loves his sister, in spite of her determined attempts to make him into her personal rocking horse.

We are blessed with joyful, healthy children. Hanging tightly to God's grace, we pray for His hand to be upon them always.

Saving Grace

I am thankful for the Lord's ever-present hand of protection over our family. There are many opportunities in Africa for physical harm through disease, violence, and disaster. If not for God's grace, we wouldn't have a hope of being effective and safe in this precarious continent.

Just a few weeks ago I was again reminded how dangerous the African roads can be. As I rode home one afternoon in a heavily laden delivery truck (filled with precious materials from our container), our vehicle was almost driven off the road into a steep ditch. Two semi-trucks were vying, side by side, for precedence on the road. Literally seconds before we collided, one of the trucks backed down and slid into his lane. Nothing but the Hand of God protected us from a devastating road accident that day.

Earlier this year we attended the funeral of an 18 month old baby. He died of dehydration. It was a sobering moment as we realized that Africa still struggles against many of the diseases and physical maladies that are all but legend in the West. We are thankful for the Lord's grace in protecting us from harm and allowing us to serve our burdened Brothers and Sisters in Africa. We too experienced our share of infections and illnesses this year. We are grateful for the Lord's sustenance through difficult times.



African roads present a myriad of hazards and challenges. Even the best of drivers can meet with disaster.



Thanks to Heather and CiaoBellaPhotog.com for amazing family photos!

Christmas at Home

We are incredibly blessed to be home over the holiday season. Additionally, we've been able to be present and participate in two family weddings! Both Ashley's brother Sheldon and my brother Aaron were married in early December. Monica was a flower girl in both weddings.

Pro Rege,

Timothy, Ashley, Monica, & Frederick Keller

Don't forget to follow us on our website and blog:
www.KellersC23.com and www.KellersC23.com/blog.

Please pray...

- For fruitful ministry with Zambian pastors, church leaders, and teachers
- For God's guidance and grace as doctors seek to find the cause of Timothy's health problems
- For the Lord to send the right engine for our vehicle
- For "journey mercies" as we return to Zambia in the new year.

Gifts may be sent to: The Keller Household, c/o ITMI, PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281
To receive a tax receipt, cheques should be made out to "ITMI" and designated to "The Kellers"