



# Merry Christmas



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Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:17-18

Another year, another letter. This is my sixth time through this annual update process and I have to admit I found myself looking back at past letters to make sure I wasn't reusing old intro material.

We did celebrate our 5th wedding anniversary this year. The first milestone along the way and the big "wooden anniversary". Andrew and I are both truly amazed when we look back at what God has done to bring us together and to build our family. He is truly an amazing artist.

Matthew is now 17 months old and is a blast and a workout all at the same time. He is quite the talker for his age and rarely stops for more than a few seconds. One of his favorite things is water, which he greets with a hearty "AAAAHH-DER" at nearly every encounter, and he lives in Seattle so the encounters are many. He also loves Sesame Street which is currently the only TV program he is allowed to watch. He can name almost all the characters and is obsessed with Elmo. Oh well, at least it is not Barney!

It is semi-traditional for me to at least mention our Christmas tree hunt in these letters. The picture below is of Matthew — pretty excited about the moon that his daddy just pointed out to him, on an unusually clear December evening we chose for our tree hunt. We did the decorating while he slept, and our tree is now fenced in for its own pro-

tection.

The biggest change and challenge for both Andrew and I this year has centered around learning to be godly parents. I'm sure this will continue to be a major part of our lives for years to come. If only the parenting techniques developed during toddlerhood could carry us straight through the teen years! It is a joy though, and even on the worst days it's worth it.

We have done a little traveling this year. We took a trip with my parents to Whistler, BC which was a lot of fun. It's nice to have some extra playmates for Matthew, who truly loves Grama and Bapa, as he calls them.

In August Andrew's parents and brother came to the U.S. for his sister's wedding in California and were able to meet Matthew for the first time. Matthew took an instant liking to his uncle Tim and still talks about his Thathi (grandma) every time he sees a coffee cup and his Thatha (grandpa) with every round of 'This Little Piggy'.

Now for the quick career update. I am still a stay-at-



home mom, who just happens to work one day a week and a little from home as a pediatric nurse. Grandma and Matthew get good quality time while I'm at work. Andrew is a senior business systems analyst at Medtronic, where he has worked for 7 years now. He is very happy there and we are both extremely grateful for the stability his job has provided for our family in this tough economy.

It's time to sign off again until next year. Merry Christmas everyone! We praise God for making each of you a part of our lives.

With love,



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