



Merry Christmas



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*Our God,
Heaven cannot hold Him,
nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall
flee away when
He comes to
reign. In the
bleak midwinter
a stable place
sufficed, The
Lord God
Almighty,
Jesus Christ.*

In the Bleak
Midwinter
Christine Rossetti

Merry Christmas friends and family!

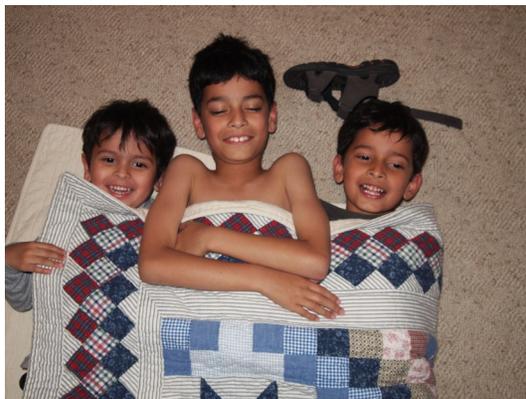
We have finished with December birthday madness and are now ready to celebrate my favorite time of year, CHRISTMAS!!! I think my passion is spreading to my children. Matthew, my reserved boy, danced with abandon to Christmas carols while decorating the tree. Isaiah has become a fantastic tree lighting assistant and Zachary stuck with me until the last ornament was hung and worked sooo... hard to spread them evenly. I can't wait until my little girl can get into the mix! For now she just helped out by taking a really long nap.

I have to start with our little Gracie this year. She is only 4 months old so we are just learning who she is but I can tell you she is a smiley little lady with a mind of her own already. We nearly passed out when the ultrasound tech told us we were having a girl and it has been so fun to bring a baby into this house of kiddos all old enough to appreciate her. Matt can carry her around as needed and she brought out such a soft side of him. Zay loves her so much he can hardly contain himself and Zach gets her giggling by wiggling her arms around while singing "Na-na-na-na-na-na-na- Batman!" Once after a particularly long drive with her screaming at the top of her lungs he



did say that he didn't think he wanted this baby anymore but... he got over it. Andrew is absolutely loving being the daddy of a daughter and loves to see her all dressed up. We didn't know what we were missing but the splash of pink is just what this house needed!

In the Northwest having 4 children is often considered not a socially responsible thing to do so I was ready for rolling eyes on every family outing but seeing a baby girl out with all our crazy boys always gets the same reaction, "You FINALLY got your girl!" I'm telling you, it is the same, word for word, every time. Andrew and I get such a laugh counting them up. We'd like to tell them all we'd have to be certifiable to have a 4th just hoping for a girl but we don't have time to explain. We are out and about with 4 children!



Working backward in birth order, Zachary comes next. He is so much fun we just couldn't help but have one more. He is confident, kind and our resident super hero. He has spent the better part of the last year dressed up in one of his many costumes. He loves going to preschool and hanging out with his best friend Sam with whom he has such a precious relationship that it brings tears to his mommy's eyes on a regular basis. He is also developing his own

theological understanding which includes his insistence that God died for our chins in addition to our sins. In his quest to get a real hold on the fundamentals he also asked “When God washes away our sins does he just get the crumbs or does he really wash the whole thing?” I just love preschool minds!

Isaiah started kindergarten this year, and is a masterful, tenderhearted peacemaker. Yup. A middle child with a capital ‘M.’ On the way to Target recently, knowing that his brother Zach didn’t have any money to spend, he turned to him and said “I have \$15, Zachary so I will give you \$7 and I’ll have \$8. OK Zach so you can get something too.” Mom’s heart melts! He has a natural ability to sense what others are feeling that far exceeds his mother’s and I hope to learn from him over the years. The downside is that I have to inquire very carefully as to the details of his days and make sure he is not being taken advantage of. He continues to adore his best friend, Brendan (Sam’s brother) and though they are very different in personality they are so good for each other. I often have to tell them not to argue like brothers, but I guess that is a good problem to have.

Matthew (9), still enjoys video games, tennis, and reading. He has also taken up guitar which he is picking up so quickly I am a little jealous. Matthew has given this mommy of 3 boys great hope this year. I was beginning to wonder if we were going to hit college before they stopped bouncing off the walls and started routinely following through on basic instructions but something magical has happened. Matthew now does his homework independently and usually hears my instructions and follows through the first time. I knew we had truly entered a new phase when I heard him tell his brother “Would you get your shoes on already! Mom has asked you 3 times!” Hallelujah! This happened just as Isaiah entered the Bermuda triangle of distractibility that seems to suck in most five year old boys. I am

so glad to know that the triangle eventually spits them back out!

Andrew has had a frantic, but fantastic year working on Windows Phone as he has for several years. It has been rewarding to see the fruits of his labor but he is ready to move on and will start a job in the Microsoft Dynamics division this January. This will blend his early career experience with what he has learned at Microsoft and seems a great fit. As a mommy of four I have finally had to say goodbye to my in-office nursing work but still work a few hours a week from home. As you can imagine I have found a few ways to spend the time! We both continue to find lots of joy in the friendships and opportunities to serve that we find at Crossroads Bible Church and I think would both consider that to be our most rewarding investment outside of bringing up our family. What amazing grace God has given us through our church family.

As usually I am signing off as I see my space quickly running out. I’ve loved reading so many of your letters and cards this year. Our 2010 letter was fully written but never made it out as I was too nauseous to think straight last December (thanks to Gracie). If you’d like to read it visit seattledavids.com.

Have a great year all!

Sincerely,

Andrew, Amber, Matthew, Isaiah,
Zachary and Grace

Top David Boy Quotes of 2011

1. Zach: “Only God knows!” Isaiah: “God and my daddy because his phone tells him anything. He just talks to it and says ‘Who are Batman’s parents?’ or something and it tells him. He knows everything!”
2. Me: “I think you have to wear socks in the play area.” Zach: “Yeah, cause they don’t want to see your toes naked.”
3. Andrew asked Matt the age-old question “What’s black and white and red all over?” After a long pause he said “The Kindle. It’s black and white and you can read it all over.” Times have changed. Sounds like a great ad campaign for Amazon, huh?
4. Zachary was in the backseat playing with two action figures and the speech one gave the other went like this: “I am the kid boss of this family! I make the dinner and I stir the pot!.... The parents are just children.”
5. Isaiah expressed sincere concern for the baby in my tummy. “He is swimming in water and he has a cord plugged into his belly. He might get electrocuted.”

