

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Merry Christmas friends! It has been such a long time since I have written to you all. Actually that's not true. I did write to you last year but I never got around to mailing it. It started out as a Christmas letter, morphed into a Valentine's Day letter and in its final incarnation was an April Fool's Day letter. While I am making confessions, dozens of thank you notes over the years have suffered a similar fate. It's a disease! I'm so sorry! I won't catch you up, but if you simply must know check out last year's letter on our family webpage (web address above).



We are settling in to our new(ish) home and are really appreciating the extra space for our crew. That is a simplified version of our house on the front of the Christmas card. I think I will finally start hanging things on the walls after Christmas. After prepping the old house to sell and moving it has taken me a year to recharge my reserves enough to tackle any further home projects that were not absolutely necessary (like refilling the toilet paper roll ;-)). It has been an easy move for the kids as it didn't involve any change in schools. In other family news we took a beautiful and restful road trip to Banff, Canada this summer with the whole crew and my parents were even able to tag along for much of the time. Great family memories were made, from rock skipping lessons with daddy and grandpa at the foot of the Banff Falls to Gracie's first carousel ride at Silverwood Theme Park on the way home.

Time to break it down one family member at a time. Let's start with kiddo number one. Matthew began junior high this year and while the pre-teen years do have their challenges I am loving the sense of humor and having someone around during the day with whom to carry on a grown-up conversation. He is a fabulous big brother to Gracie and regularly amazes me with his ability to handle her "two-year-oldness" with grace and firmness. I find myself taking parenting lessons from him at times. While he did cross country this Fall, Matt is quite happy to continue to call rock climbing his favorite sport. He amazes his coaches with his will and ability to do what seems impossible at his size and age. Since he is in junior high I will have to refrain from sharing any "embarrassing" stories if I want to stay in his good graces so I shall stop talking about him now. Aren't you proud of me Matt?

Isaiah turned 8 this week and loves to laugh. His favorite book is a joke book and there is nothing better for the soul than sitting next to Isaiah during a funny movie. His laugh is great medicine. He is my little diplomat and is always quite distressed when someone is



*"When you un-wrap your worth in the Gift of Christ, you release your grip on all the other gifts. You are loved and carried and secure, and what else do you need when you have Him? You are free, free, to lavishly give away your gifts when all your value, worth, joy and riches are in the greatest of gifts."*

*Ann Voskamp-  
The Greatest Gift*



unhappy with him. This makes life a bit stressful when you live with 3 siblings. He loves his friends and works hard to keep them happy as well. We have flat-out run out of books for the boy to read. I had given up on the library as my inability to keep track of books for four kids was resulting in more fines than I could bear to pay but, I may have to change my tune. I bought him eight chapter books recently and he had them all read in a few days. As for the more physical part of boyhood he loves soccer, riding scooters and wrestling with his daddy and brothers (I still can't watch!).

Zachary turned 6 this week and is in Kindergarten this year. He is finally attending the elementary school he has visited every school day since he was born and has the kind of confidence that you would expect a kid like that to possess. He is well liked by his peers, has an eye for what is "cool" and pretty much thinks he could run the show. He still has his sweet soft side though. His teacher and the special education aid have told me how amazing he has been at taking on a child with special needs and helping him keep up and fit in. Being the third and having a pretty busy mom all his life has made Zachary amazingly persistent and self sufficient. He constantly amazes me at his ability to figure things out on his own and remaining patient in the process. I am going to point this upside of being neglected out to him when he comes after me about it later. He also loves running around at recess, wrestling and playing soccer.

Gracie (2) is sweet, hilarious, a cuddle bug, and the princess that she was predicted to be (to my disgust, and eye rolling) by every stranger we ran into as an infant. I did not realize it was a trend of birth order that I was almost powerless to prevent. Her brothers all

adore her and she has 5 parents all attending to her every desire, thus the term "princess". We are all working hard at occasionally saying "no" so her. She loves to pretend to be a doctor and a mommy and we all regularly submit to having our blood pressure taken on our ankles and being hushed with SHOUTS of "Be quiet. Baby sleeping" while she rocks her dolls. She is really a mommy's girl and will copy just about anything I am doing. This is new for me, as the boys were not nearly as keen to be like me (I do seem to remember some pretending to be a Microsoft guy though). She is quick to volunteer when I need someone to holler at the boys to get ready for bed, or come down for breakfast and does it with perfect mommy tone and phrasing. This may turn her brothers against her but so far they just think its hilarious.

I have to tell you I am so tired of writing this paragraph about Andrew and me. Nothing ever changes enough to be all that exciting. Those without kids may think we have lost ourselves, but I promise you that we have actually found who we were really made to be. We continue with our same jobs and have ministries through church that we love and that God is using to grow and stretch us. We are enjoying (thank you mom and dad Eddy) getting out on regular date nights and even getting a weekend away to focus on remembering how much fun we have together when we have time to talk before 8:30 PM.

While our family is far from perfect (those stories withheld to protect the not so innocent), we are blessed and thankful to God for his unmerited favor.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year friends and family! God bless.

The Seattle Davids

**Funny Kid Moments 2013**

1. Mom: "God will protect you"  
Gracie: "God and Fu Panda"
2. Zach kept talking about the African Rainforest, and swears they talk about it on Wild Kratts. I asked "Zach, are you sure you don't mean the Amazon Rainforest?" He responds with a tone that tells me he thinks I'm nuts, "You mean Amazon sells rainforests?"
3. Had to explain to Zachary why his dad can be called an Indian-American but cannot be called an American Indian. Darn Christopher Columbus!
4. From Uncle Tim: "On turning a toy Batman's head around, I told Zachie (5) that owls do the same. He responded, "Err, yeah, I know...'cause they're neck-turnal."
5. Grace came into my room cuddling a baby in her arms and talking to it sweetly like a mommy. It was so small I couldn't see it so I asked her what baby she had. She opened the crook of her arm to show me a Hot Wheels car.
6. I said I thought the chicken I'd made was good but a bit chewy. Isaiah responded "I think it is good and a creative choice." Someone's been watching too much Top Chef.
7. Zach's Sunday afternoon summary of his lesson: "Jesus told Peter that before the chicken clucked he would deny him 3 times."

