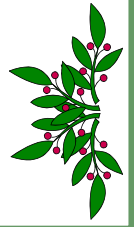




Merry Christmas



Issue 5

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD



I realized after choosing the verse for the first column of our letter, as I do every year, that my choice this year may be misconstrued. I want to start by clarifying that Andrew and I do not in anyway feel that our child is the fulfillment of the prophesy in this verse. Yes, indeed, God has blessed us with a baby boy this year, and someday he may reign on the David family throne, but we do realize that this is where the similarity ends.

Phew! Glad that's all cleared up. Now for the rest of our news.

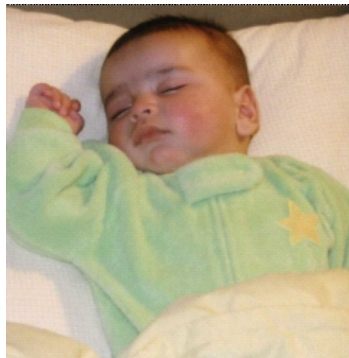
So as all of you are no doubt aware by now, the big news for our family this year was the birth of our son, Matthew Nikhil David on June 26th. He has been the most amazing blessing, and Andrew and I can't imagine life without him. We are completely mesmerized by his every move. We cheered when he first rolled to his back (my little sister Alisa's comment: "I thought they were born knowing how to do that."). We beamed with pride the first time he grabbed his own toes. We laughed hysterically when he discovered his tongue and spent an entire day poking it in and out like a lizard. Parenthood really does

make you completely crazy. Praise God!

As for the rest of the family, Andrew is enjoying the challenge of his job as a Senior Business Systems Analyst at Medtronic Physio-Control. I am at home with Matthew now, but do venture back into the work force about 6 hours a week, as my employer has graciously agreed to keep me on very part time as a pediatric nurse. My mom watches Matthew and actually wishes I'd go back another day a week so she could have more time with him.

And now, as I have done in years past I think I will share the story of our 2002 Christmas tree hunt while it is still fresh in my mind (we picked it out today). I know no better way to give you a glimpse into our daily lives than to take you along for a ride.

It was, in true Seattle style, an event completely



surrounded by and engulfed in pouring rain. So, with Matthew strapped to my front in a baby carrier and my coat around us both, Andrew broke out the umbrella and we made a dash for the tree lot. Our four years of marriage have brought Andrew's tree shopping skills a long way from that first year's trip I wrote about a few years back. We jumped quickly from aisle to aisle, Andrew jumping out into the rain to hold up and spin trees around for me to see. I must say that a driving rain can go a long way toward speeding up even the pickiest of tree shoppers. Just as Matthew drifted off to sleep we settled on a cute 6 foot tree, with a slightly crooked top (just adds character). Andrew, now completely soaked arranged to purchase the tree, and the three Davids headed home to watch Matthew play with his toes!

Well, as I am fast running out of room I must sign off for this year. God bless, and Merry Christmas to you all!

With love in Christ,