



Merry Christmas



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And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name... And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

Luke 1:46-47, 49-50 (ESV)

Hello friends and family! Greetings from the Seattle Davids. As I frequently do, let me start with a Christmas tree hunting story. Matthew was very excited about getting a tree. In fact, when asked by Santa what he wanted for Christmas his only request was for a Christmas tree. Andrew and I were excited too, anticipating his reaction. Imagine our surprise when as we pulled up to the tree lot, Matthew burst into tears. "No mommy, no!! Don't make me get one of these outside Christmas trees. I want an inside Christmas tree." We tried to console him, but it wasn't happening. We had completed the tree choosing process and it was being tied to our car before I could get him calmed enough to explain himself. He explained that he wanted an inside Christmas tree like the ones in the store where he saw Santa. These were decorated and lit, and clearly superior to the ones on the tree lot. I explained that we would make ours pretty like that, but he wasn't convinced until he woke the next morning to a decent looking tree. Oh well! The best laid plans of mice and men!

Now for the annual update. Let's start with the biggest struggle and work from there. An honest picture of our family this year won't allow me to skip over this still open chapter of our lives. Over the last year Andrew and I have struggled to add to our little family. We've been through a couple of miscarriages and

lots of tests. The doctors have found a couple of treatable conditions in me that we are now working through. God has been gracious to us during these trials by providing us the strength we need day by day and allowing us to see, already, some ways that he has used our situation to grow our faith. Pray for patience for us, and wisdom for my doctors over the next year as we continue to walk down this path. And, a big thank you to all of you who have walked so closely with us through this!

Now on to the many joys and blessings of the year! First an update on our two-and-a-half-year old Matthew. Boy, oh boy, is he a jibber jabberer. He never stops talking and all the practice has him sounding like he's 4 not 2. Famous quotes include "Mommy help me! I'm getting frustrated," and "Grandma, I'm not hungry. I want to starve." As you can probably guess by the nature of these quotes, he is a typical two-year-old in most other ways. He spends much of his time finding the limits and testing his mommy and daddy's commitment to enforcing them! Favorite pas-



times include building bridges and towers with daddy and grandpa, pretending to drive his Radio Flyer car to Costco to see forklifts, and helping mommy cook Indian food with spices he has learned to identify like cumin, turmeric, and chili powder. Watching him learn and grow has been one of the most amazing gifts God has given Andrew and me. It just makes my heart sing!

God has also blessed us with a great new home this year. We found a cute little split-level with just the perfect amount of room for our family. We've already really learned to appreciate a second bathroom during the potty training process! Praise God!

Well I'm out of room so that means it's time to close. Merry Christmas all :o)

With love,

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