

“Why did He make them (husband and wife) one? He seeks godly children.”  
Malachi 2:15

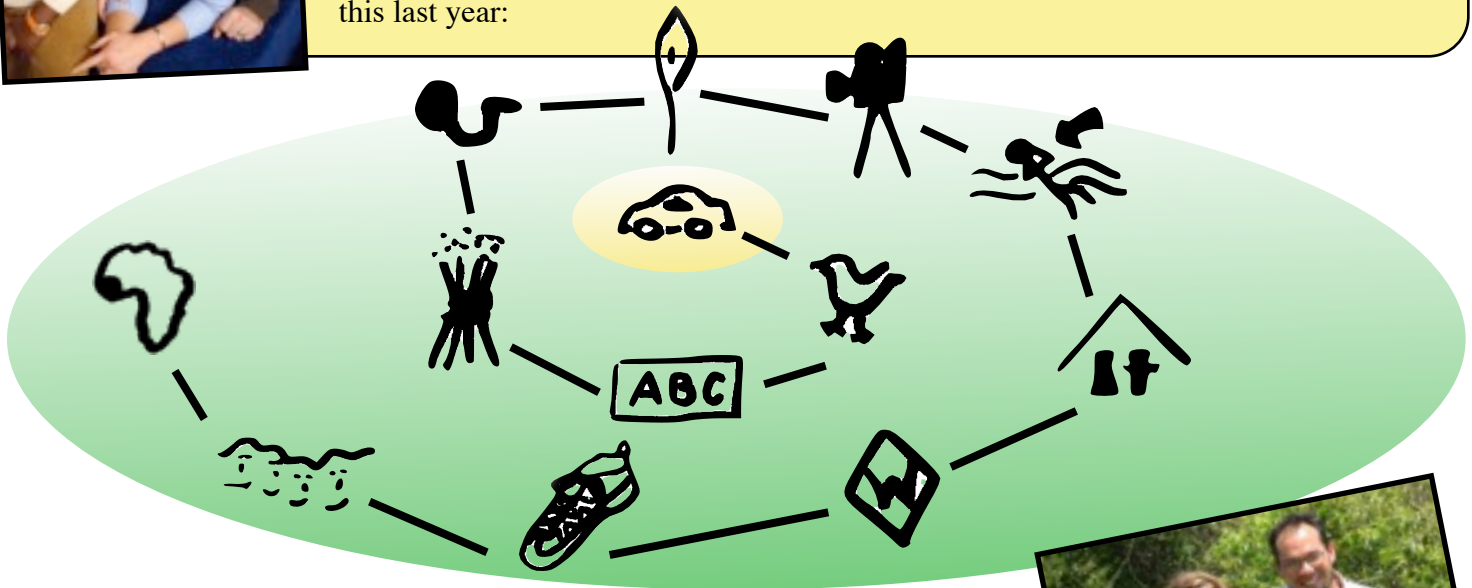


Dear Family and Friends,

June 6, 2009

It is hard to believe that is six years since our wedding. It feels like we are still newlyweds, but at the same time it feels like we can't remember life apart from each other. It has been an honor to be involved with God's purpose of raising the next generation for Him together.

Here in Council Bluffs is where Lewis and Clark met with Indians to secure peace and safe passage through the Louisiana Purchase to the Pacific coast. Some Indians use symbols in a spiral to record history. Here is ours of this last year:



Last summer we traversed through 17 states, visiting family and friends and Nicole attending the American College of Nurse Midwives convention in Boston (her first time!). It was wonderful seeing the Whitmores (a family who adopted from Liberia and have a charming farm in upstate New York), the Stenders in Virginia (who Nicole had the privilege of attending their sixth birth in San Diego and are now lifelong friends), the Josselyn family in Cape Cod (where we had a wonderful family reunion with Joseph's family and saw Grandma Gail for the last time before her death), the Brannons in North Carolina (Nicole's cousin, who adopted from China and have been so supportive to us during our adoption process), Rob and Jenny (Joseph's aunt and uncle, with whom we had a fun time at a North Carolina beach house), then the Johnsons in Illinois, (who we met during our Liberian adoption adventures). Later we drove to Colorado for the Fourth of July to meet with Nicole's maternal side of the family.



Our chickens have returned after a one year lapse due to run-ins with Animal Control. Complete with Farm Permit, our chickens are happily laying eggs and eating table scraps.



We are now (still?) on the sixth day of creation in our unit studies. Hey, animals and people are big subjects! After the kids had completed a report on an animal from each continent, we are now studying the human body. We are loving it! Also, we finished reading *Pilgrim's Progress* and have started the Laura Ingall's series. This fits their reading level well, and it is exciting to see them transition from the English syntax to the ASL (American Sign Language) meaning of the story.





Joseph finished editing “Ruth”, the second in Big Bible Stories in ASL. He remains busy at Deaf Missions, juggling this series, plus editing Link online sermons, helping videotaping the ASL translation of the Old Testament, and working collaboratively with Silent Blessings and DVC as Technical Director for a television series, “Dr. Wonder’s Workshop”.



Exodus Homebirth Service celebrated several wonderful births, and the demand is certainly high for homebirth here. However, it was during this year that we decided Nicole ought to temporarily refrain from accepting new clients, so she can be freer to educate the children and recover from various health issues. *“O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me.” Psalm 30:2*



While Joseph usually, declines offers for freelance editing work, he could not refuse a project, called *The Caretaker*, this year. A full-length film by Mosdeux, a deaf filmmaking company, the movie offers suspense, drama and beautiful cinematography. It is possible that it may be entered in several film festivals.



On Easter Sunday, JP was baptized along with three other people in our birthing pool in the basement. We pray his commitment is real, and the life of Christ is evident in his daily decisions.



Inspired by a needy two year old we met, we decided to go through the licensing process for foster/adoption through the state. We want to be ready to accept deaf children or children of deaf adults that the Lord would see fit in placing in our home. We currently are still in the licensing process.



JP began Cub Scouts this year. It has been a neat opportunity for him to strive toward manhood goals and for him to spend good Dad-time.



Hadassah entered a track meet this spring, and ran in the 200 and 400 meter runs. She trained for it well, but thinks she may try a shorter distance event next year. She excels at beating everyone in the family in sprints at home, but did not fair as well in the meet.



Joseph’s parents, Terry and Beth, visited in the spring. We drove through South Dakota and visited Mount Rushmore, the Badlands and the Ingall’s South Dakotan homestead. It was an amazing experience, driving those hundreds of miles on the highway, which was constructed over original wagon trails. We could really taste the experience of pioneers and explorers of old.



This year we have been planning a trip back to Liberia, which will take place June 25 to July 23. Please, pray for a successful mission, as we seek to make headway in ascertaining a Liberian native sign language, sharing the gospel of Christ, contacting current deaf ministries and identifying adoptable orphans for American families.