

Dear Friends and Family,

My original intent for the May newsletter was to write about Josh since we are getting close to his first birthday (June 19th) and Eric is in Africa. But, we have other exciting news to share!

First, I will share briefly about Josh. He is growing SO fast. He is tall and heavy (25 lbs!!) and STRONG both physically and emotionally. He has opinions and is not shy about sharing them, even if he doesn't have the vocabulary to do so! But, he is also very sweet and has the cutest little sense of humor. He loves chasing the dog around and chasing mommy or daddy, and loves it even more when we chase him. He giggles loudly as he crawls away as fast as he can. I am hoping he will soon get his balance figured out so he will walk. I know that you are thinking that is crazy because it means he can get into more trouble, but we have another reason for needing him to walk soon....

WE ARE ADOPTING ANOTHER BABY!!! And, unexpectedly, today I found out that instead of the c-section happening May 30, the mom's water broke this morning! (5/18). So, we will have a baby by the weekend! It is another African-American boy and we decided to name him Gabriel Jason. Gabriel means "devoted to God", and Jason is Eric's dad's middle name.

I'm sure this is shocking to you because we hadn't mentioned when we wanted to adopt again. Well, it was just as shocking to us because we hadn't even done any paperwork for another adoption - we knew we wanted more kids but figured we'd wait until Josh was 1 to start the process again and maybe have a new baby by Christmas. But, the lawyer's office called us May 4th and said that there was a baby needing a home who would be born late May/early June and would we be interested in taking it?

I called Eric at work expecting him to say, "Are you crazy?" since Josh isn't even a year yet. To my shock, he was excited about the possibility. We prayed and talked to a lot of people. Most people who have kids close in age said that even though the first few years are hard, it's totally worth it and the kids are best friends.

So, before Eric left for Africa, we decided to take this baby. We got power of attorney signed for me to make decisions and sign papers while he was gone. I had already cancelled my trip to Africa, because Eric's parents were going to watch Josh for me, but his dad had a heart stint put in recently and we didn't want to give them extra stress.

Once again, we are asking if you would prayerfully consider giving a special gift toward our adoption costs. Last year, God brought all the rest of the money in through you and we were so amazed. We are grateful because the social worker has agreed to do the adoption

for \$7000 instead of her usual \$12,000. The lawyer will cost \$3000, and the home study and other fees will cost about \$500, for a total of about \$10,500.

This year, one of our partners has generously agreed to give a matching gift. So, for every dollar that comes in, they will match it, up to \$3000. Praise the Lord! Including this \$3000 and a gift from Crusade, all we have left to pay is \$5000. Would you prayerfully consider giving a gift towards this cost? Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope and make the check out to "Campus Crusade for Christ."

Please pray for us! Pray that the paperwork all comes in at the right time, and that He will help us to adjust back to the sleepless nights. Pray that Josh will love his new little brother and will be okay with less Mommy time (he's now in that mommy clingy stage!) Pray for the team that I (Allison) work with - that God will help them to handle the load. I will not be able to work any more on ministry in the office until the boys are older. Right now, the focus will be on these precious boys that the Lord has given us. And finally, please pray for Eric's safe travel back home. He will leave tomorrow at 3 in the afternoon our time and arrive on Wednesday (5/20) at 4 pm.

We'll send pictures of the baby and of Africa next month! We love you!

Blessings,

Eric, Allison and Joshua (and Gabriel!)