



# Paul and Kaelin



## January 2009 Update Letter

Happy New Year! There is always something refreshing about a new year. It's like a new start, although really not a lot changes besides the calendar. In Revelations, Christ declares "I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:5). So really, He is continually renewing us. Specifically, this year we pray He renews our tongues so that our speech is always encouraging, positive, and full of grace. We've felt convicted of the times when we've talked poorly about someone else, especially when the information does not really help anyone. That's basically just gossip. We do not want to have any part of that. We also desire that God will renew our minds and give us immense hope and courage and that He keeps us from fear, anxiety, and doubt.

### Our Christmas Trip to Portland

Our trip to Portland was amazing and filled with blessings. Thank you for all that prayed for us! Luke was good on both flights and our journeys to and from home went great. We loved being in Portland. It was great to see my Mom, Chuck, Dad, and Susan. Of course, everyone was excited to hang out with baby Luke. Because of the few feet of snow – which kept us home many days – we had lots of time to chat and enjoy each other's company. I was also incredibly happy to get a lot of time to spend with my younger brother Mike! We really enjoyed meeting his girlfriend Nicci. Mike was so gracious to drive us around and help us with our errands. He has grown up a lot in the last few years and is so fun to hang out with. God is very much at work in his life! I'm so proud of him!

We also had a wonderful Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinner (which ended up being 2 days later because of the weather) with my extended family. Christmas Dinner was amazing; Auntie Maureen and Uncle Dave cooked up some mean prime rib. It was also fun to get a chance to see Great-Grandpa Marvin. We just love our family; they are such awesome, generous, loving people!

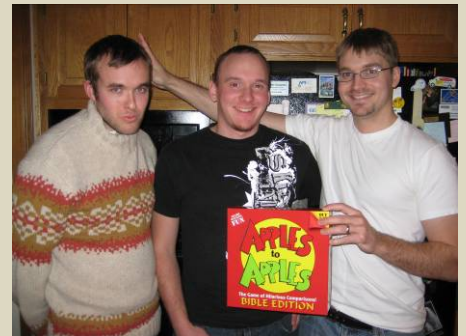
We also got to see some of my friends, including some people I haven't seen in a few years, which was quite a treat. It was especially fun to hang out with our friend Robert; we were encouraged see how much God is working in his life! We both were sad to leave Portland and we already miss everyone! Thank you all who blessed us on this trip!

### Prayer Requests:

- For this new LDI semester
- For our new small group
- For endurance through the winter
- For our health through the winter

Email us to join our e-mail prayer list

My bro, Robert, & I on New Year's Eve. We played a bunch of Apples to Apples Bible Edition.



Luke at Christmas with his Grandma Shell. Luke loved spending time with his Grandma and was excited to show her his tricks in his exersaucer.



Luke with Grandpa David. He showed Grandpa how he likes to stand up and do jumps.

## Another semester of LDI has begun!

### *A Fully Loaded Semester*

I'm starting my 4<sup>th</sup> semester of LDI! Praise the Lord that He has brought us this far! This first week I'll be doing Romans Retreat, which is an all week (45 hour) study on Romans 1-8. This semester I am taking Preaching, Leadership, and 'Running with Horses' (our LDI character and leadership class). I may be teaching a few classes; we'll see what my schedule allows.

Another big project on my plate is Spring Retreat, which is the most popular event of the year and nearly half the church attends. I am helping plan the small groups' time by preparing the Bible study and discussion, as well as recruiting and training leaders for those groups. I'll also continue to lead the Hands and Feet service ministry, which now routinely has a couple events each month.

### *Relationships over Tasks*

Although I have all these 'tasks' to accomplish, I really have felt God telling me to put relationships first... because it all ultimately is about people and their relationship with God. I am going to prioritize meeting with guys and mentoring. Per my ILP (Individualized Learning Plan - the set of goals that Pastor Steve and Pastor Cor have given me for this year), we also will be focusing more on hospitality and building new relationships through inviting people into our home.

### *Kaelin's Ministry*

Kaelin was asked to help lead a Beth Moore bible study this spring for women. She loved being in the last study in the fall and now is excited for the challenge of facilitating it. Kaelin will also be helping with mom's ministry, and mentoring a couple younger women.

### *A New Small Group*

On top of this, Kaelin and I are starting a new married's small group. Our last married's small group grew too big, so we are multiplying! With our former group, we



Study Day in December. We had over 70 students come to the church to study and enjoy free food/drinks. Praise the Lord for all the generous food donations and for His blessings on that day!

are now also starting a monthly "Married's" event for couples in the church to connect. We are excited to encourage other couples to live for Christ and take steps of faith together in their marriage and life!

### *All for His Glory*

What is wonderful about being so overwhelmed with all this is knowing that we simply cannot accomplish this on our own and we need to grip tightly onto God. We need lots of prayer for all the things above! Pray also for God to show us where to focus and who to pour ourselves into. Pray also that we continue to be radically obedient to God and we do not limit ourselves by our own perceptions, plans, or schedules. Pray for His will to be done this semester and that all we do is for His glory and His kingdom!

Luke is now 5 months old and is getting bigger! He's starting to roll over, has teeth coming in, and is eating food – which he LOVES to do. He also laughs a lot! ☺



We Love you all! Please let us know how we can pray for you. Or feel free to call or e-mail us to hear how we are doing. And please visit our website: <http://www.paulandkaelin.com/>

Paul and Kaelin (and Luke!)