

Paul and Kaelin



February 2009 Update Letter

For those in MN, mark your Calendars: Luke's baby dedication will be on May 24th at Hope Community Church @ 11am.

Greetings! It's a balmy winter day here, nearly 40! We'll probably go out walking to enjoy the sun. Two weeks ago it was colder here than in the South Pole. Yikes!

This is a big month for us, please be in prayer! We're starting a new young married's small group, Kaelin is starting a Beth Moore women's Bible study, and Paul is in the midst of teaching a class on Spiritual disciplines. Paul is also hosting a showing of the movie "Expelled" on Feb. 12 (Darwin's b-day).

Our Financial Situation (The Lord Provides!)

(Our situation is fine and we're not making a plea for more money... just read the story!)

Coming back from the holidays, Kaelin and I were feeling pressured and worried about our finances. In terms of pledged regular support, we get less than 70% of our monthly need. The additional need in the last few months was covered by one-time donations at the beginning of LDI in September. However, that had run out, so we were feeling that our situation was becoming concerning.

A couple of web-design opportunities came up; so the big question on our minds was whether I should focus more on working to earn money. However, God never told me to search for work; instead, he told me to concentrate MORE on mentoring, discipleship, and practicing hospitality. He made it clear that people, not tasks, need to be my priority (which is contrary to my natural bent). The obligations I already had (classes, service ministry, spring retreat planning) did leave any extra time. (Note that I do have a few web projects that I do on the side already, but they are continuations of work I've already done so they are flexible when they get done).

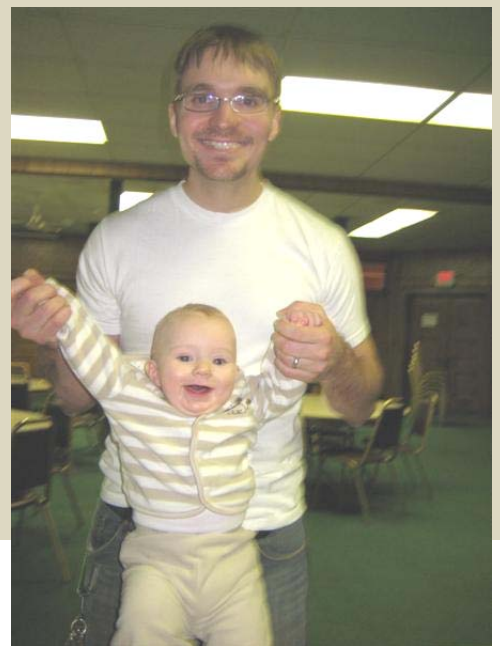
We discussed it a lot and had some very difficult times wrestling in prayer. Finally, we decided that all our decisions should be preparing ourselves for what God wants to do with us - which we think is church planting.

Prayer Requests:

- For taming our tongues so that all our speech is honoring and Godly
- For our new small group and Kaelin's Bible study
- For being courageous and bold, not fearful
- For our health through the winter

Email us to join our e-mail prayer list

Luke is really fun these days. He laughs a ton and loves playing and trying to grab everything he can (like my glasses). He got some cool outfits at Christmas that he's been sporting.



God never told me to focus on getting a job, so my decision to pursue that route would be out of doubt and not trust. I realized that what I do is not what matters; it's my heart toward God and faith in Him that matters. So we declared that we are going to trust God and continue forward at what we're doing.

After we decided this, many wonderful things happened: some of the jobs got pushed back so that I can do them in the summer when I do have time; we received a couple of big support checks and picked up a new supporter; a number of you sent in larger than expected monthly checks; and we filed our taxes and got a very surprising tax return (having a baby definitely changes things). In one week our situation went from very concerning to quite stable! God is very good! Thank you all for your wonderfully encouraging faith in us and thank you Lord for being our provider!

Kaelin's Corner

“What gain has the worker from his toil?” (Ecc 3:9) is a thought that has plagued me in the past month. To compound matters, “I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.” (Ecc 3:10) It really never ends, does it? I do the dishes only to see them pile back up in the sink. I haul up a load of clean laundry and place the perfectly empty basket back in its place only to find a pile the next time it catches my eye. I deposit a check only to realize that I’d better get another one in there soon, and it seems the second I roll up the vacuum cord there is yet another dust bunny rearing its ugly head in the corner I know I didn’t miss.

I had been letting my “meaningless” toil get the best of me for some time. In my exasperation I kept saying to Paul, “there is SO much to do!” as I obsessively scanned our apartment like a crazy lady for things that must get done. God then graciously reminded me of one of my favorite books of the Bible via Mark Driscoll in his sermon series on the book of Ecclesiastes.

That Bible, always full of wisdom! How freeing it is to know that God granted Solomon wisdom, and allowed him to write a portion of the Bible. Poor Solomon, he had to realize it was “vanity” to fret the work of life after he had done it his entire life! What’s even more encouraging is, “He (God) has made everything beautiful in its time, “ (Ecc 3:11) and Solomon, “perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live...and take pleasure in all his toil, this is God’s gift to man.” (3:12-13)

So today I allowed everything to feel really good. I slowly chewed each life-giving bite of my spinach, tomato and broccoli salad. I put Luke down for a nap, turned on the shower, closed the bathroom door and cranked the space heater. Standing under my fountain of streaming warm water I praised the Lord for this wonderful luxury. It hit me just how much God wanted this lesson to sink in when Paul opened the door to find me, in all my steam, eating a pear in my birthday suit like it was my own private Eden.

This week we took a group of about 25 people to Feed My Starving Children (<http://www.fmsc.org/>) to package food to be sent to El Salvador to children and families in need. Luke thought the hair nets were hilarious and kept laughing.



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/>