

PETERS FAMILY *Journal*

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"[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

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Hannah and Christina in our first Michigan blizzard of winter!



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Christmas Reflections

With thankful hearts, we are looking forward to celebrating our last Christmas in the States for awhile. This year, we particularly relate to Joseph & Mary, who found themselves expecting a child ... well, quite unexpectedly! While we certainly wouldn't have planned a pregnancy just before moving half way around the world, we trust that the Lord's sovereign will and plans are perfect.

As many of you know, Vanessa has a hard time during the third trimester, particularly with bouts of pancreatitis. Given this likelihood along with the normal stress of moving to another culture and learning a new language, plus a lack of good medical care in close proximity, we realized it would be more prudent to leave after the delivery. On that note, we recently made the very difficult decision to delay our move until after the baby is born.

We are very grateful that we will be able to stay here in our home in Michigan, and plan a July departure for Indonesia. In the meantime, we'll be able to spend more time visiting churches, learning about Muslim culture, studying Indonesian, helping the MAF safety department with projects, and packing. We appreciate your prayers and faithful ministry support as we go through these transitions along with welcoming a new member to the Peters Clan. Vanessa's mentor suggested that perhaps God has plans for this child to bear witness to His truth in a dark place, and that it is for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14) that the baby is now being "knit together in [her] womb" (Psalm 139:13). In fact, Indonesia has a very child-centered culture, so it is our prayer that this little one will play a role in allowing us to share the Good News among Muslims. May your Christmas and New Year be blessed as we all reflect upon the humble birth of our Savior, who indeed came to "save His people from their sins!" (Matt. 1:21)





As you might recall, we spent several weeks in training this fall. Together, we completed the Orientation class where we learned a lot about cross cultural life. We couldn't help but think about all the differences and challenges we will face living in a culture literally a world away.

Truly, this is an endeavor where the Lord must become greater and we become less (John 3:30). Another neat opportunity we had included a meal at the home of a Somalian refugee family (pictured above). We found it humbling to be the guests of those who have so much less, but grateful for the opportunity to grow and learn from others. We also attended a Commissioning Service at MAF, where our President John Boyd prayed for us in preparation for overseas ministry. After that, David went through Flight and Maintenance Standardization for two months. He especially enjoyed flying in the Idaho-Oregon backcountry! We are pleased to announce that he was recommended for field service in both flight and maintenance. Enjoy some of this time in pictures below :)

Commissioning Service in Idaho



Caleb's new buddy, Johan, was a constant playmate during our time in Idaho. The good news: Johan and his family are also heading to Indonesia next year!



Our Orientation Class with our teacher, Deb. All the couples but one (going to Haiti) are headed to Indonesia, which is MAF's largest program!

David's technical training included many days flying the Cessna 206 on runways like this one in Oregon. Part of the flight training was evaluating the airstrips for length which he verified with a walking wheel like this one on right.



Travel Schedule & Prayer Requests

- January 2010: Incarnational ministry training for Muslim outreach, CA (due to the sensitive nature of the event, we are asked not to share specific dates or locations).
- May 29: Baby Peters Due Date
- Pray for discernment in using the extra time we now have prior to leaving the country. We want to do the Lord's will and also be as prepared as possible for our new calling.
- July 2010: Depart for Indonesia!

