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# KLETKE NEWSLETTER

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## “Deferred Vicarage”

When I left off with my last letter, I promised to write you again after the vicarage call service and let you know where the Lord was sending us for the next year. Well, the vicarage call service is this coming Tuesday afternoon, and my mother is in town to watch me get a call, but I already know where I am going – back to school. Let me explain...

If you remember from my last couple of letters, Tricia and I started the vicarage process several months ago. I filled out multiple forms and applications for the vicarage assignment and this past January Tricia and I both went to a “vicarage interview” with the director of placement, Dr. Nielsen. In that interview, Dr. Nielsen evaluated my seminary file and then walked us through a series of questions about the type of vicarage experience we were looking for: size of congregation, type of supervisor, location preference, things we wanted to experience, etc. At the end of the interview, Dr. Nielsen looked over the whole situation and then asked both Tricia and I, individually, what one thing was the most important for us in our vicarage placement. Now, Tricia and I had been warned that this question was coming and we had spent several evenings discussing what we hoped for – and feared – about our vicarage assignment, and after a lot of prayer and discussion, we told Dr. Nielsen that what mattered most was location. We wanted to stay in the St. Louis area. We explained to Dr. Nielsen that Tricia had found a wonderful job at Centocor. After years of education in Colorado, her career was in full swing and finding another position like hers for one year away, and then trying to slip back into her job for a fourth year was very unlikely. A move out of the area would most likely leave her unemployed for the next two years.

Well, we left the interview not knowing where we would be placed; but we had done all we could. We had relayed our situation to Dr. Nielsen and now we had to trust that the Holy Spirit would place us in the best position possible (not the easiest thing to do – even for a seminary student). We didn’t hear anything until about a week ago. The day after my mother bought a plane ticket to come out for vicarage service, I received a phone call from Dr. Nielsen asking me to check my email and get back to him before the end of the day. In short, the letter said that the church had prayed for new pastors and Lord had sent them a windfall. So many in fact, that between the two seminaries, there would be a shortage of 20-25

vicarages for the coming year – something Dr. Nielsen had not seen in his 16 years as director of vicarage placement. In order to cover the short fall, each seminary was asking for a small number of students to take a “deferred vicarage” and switch their third and fourth years of education. Tricia and I went back in to see Dr. Nielsen the next day and he explained that with the shortage of vicarages the closest he could get us to St. Louis was 50 miles west of the city; but because he understood our situation, and because I met a list of criteria they were looking for (age, church experience, grades, etc.) I was one of the few they were offering the deferred vicarage to.

Tricia and I talked late into the evening and prayed about the opportunity before us; and by the time we went to bed we had agreed to take the deferred vicarage. Another year of school will not be easy to get through. I have to admit that I was looking forward to a break from my classes; but the deferment will allow Tricia to stay at her job, it will keep us financially stable for another year, and it will eliminate one of the moves we were anticipating (now we will move from seminary to vicarage and then to my first call – no return move to the seminary from vicarage). The Holy Spirit has again taken care of our family. Although we fail to trust completely, he graciously leads us with wisdom and understanding.

So there is no need to change your phone book quite yet. We will stay in the same apartment for one more year and will start the whole process over again next fall. Maybe, given a second chance, I will learn to trust the Lord and that He will guide and protect us where ever we go. But even as a seminary student, if I fail to trust completely, I know that He will look out for us just as He has done so many times before.

In His Care,  
Dan & Tricia

## Tricia's Corner

### AN ODE TO DIETRICH

Blessed are the moments when...

he looks up at me adoringly  
he gets a healthy checkup from the doctor  
his raspberries do not contain peas  
a look in his direction induces a belly laugh  
he takes a good long nap  
he talks loudly during pastor's sermon  
a finger down his back cracks him up  
he falls asleep in my arms with little struggle  
his diaper is only wet  
I can sooth him with a hug, a bounce and a soft word

Pictures of Dietrich from the last couple of months have been posted online on our website Kletke.com. Enjoy!



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*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

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