
KLETKE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 1

February/March 2007

11 down; 1 to go.

Well, the winter quarter of '06-'07 is done and gone. Although I haven't received my grades yet, I am pretty confident that I passed all my classes. I keep telling Tricia that I squeaked by another quarter and she says that I underestimate myself. Somewhere in the middle I am sure the truth can be found.

So our time at the seminary comes down to one last quarter of class work – 11 weeks long. If you count back to where our journey began, it was the summer of '04 when I began taking Greek. Since then, I have been a full time student for 11 straight quarters. I remember when we arrived that several graduating students told us that our time at the seminary would go by quickly; but while I was staring at a stack of vocabulary flash cards, it was hard to believe them. Now on the other end I can say that they were right. The time has gone quickly and the next quarter will fly by too. Although I have a full slate of classes, there are several mile markers along the way to look forward too. Easter is April 8th, Vicarage Placement service is April 25th, our baby boy is due April 29th, and classes end on May 17th. It should be a quick and eventful 11 weeks.

The classes I have this quarter should make the time fulfilling. I have four classes – another full quarter; but I have a couple of my favorite professors and a couple of electives to keep me engaged. This quarter I will tackle Systematics IV (probably a survey of Christine doctrine concerning the church and its ministry), Pastoral Theology, Classic Devotional Life (a survey of some of the great biographies in church history), and Teaching the Catechism with Luther. It is not a light load but hopefully the professors will be gracious since this is the last quarter for many of the students.

Vicarage placement is proceeding well. I had an interview with a congregation in Chapel Hill, NC, a few weeks ago for a convertible vicarage position and it went very well. I flew out to Chapel Hill for a short weekend and had time to meet with the call committee and talk with the vacancy pastor. Everyone was so warm and welcoming; the whole process was very encouraging. However, I know that I am not the only candidate interviewing for this position; and I may not be the best candidate. This parish is the only convertible vicarage option I have heard of so far (convertible vicarage is where I vicar at a congregation and after a year my position converts into a regular call); and I expect that if I

do not get this position, I will then go on a traditional vicarage and take a regular call afterwards (traditional vicarage is where I vicar at one congregation and then move on to another congregation for my regular call). I should probably be more anxious about the process than I am (I know Tricia is) but I have classes and a new baby coming soon. There is just too much else to take care of right now.

Tricia, Dietrich and the new baby are all doing very well. The pregnancy is marching along without a hitch and Tricia continues to grow. She is now down to her last 10 weeks and is finding it more and more difficult to pick up everything that Dietrich throws on the floor. In fact, she has already switched over to slip on shoes (even when it's snowing outside). I think we are as prepared for this new baby as we possibly could be – with the exception of a name. We seem to change our mind every few days. Tricia is also doing very well at work. In fact, Dietrich and I went by and had lunch with her yesterday and everyone at her office is still hoping that we find a local vicarage so that she can keep working for the next few years. I didn't have the heart to tell them that it wasn't very likely. And Dietrich continues to grow and learn. He certainly isn't the little baby he was a year ago. He has grown into such a handsome – and at times troublesome – young boy. He is constantly into things that he shouldn't be and is already learning the art of selective listening. I wasn't expecting that for at least another 6-7 years. He is talking more and more; and there are times that we can even understand him which is very exciting. When we aren't telling him “No” or “Sit Down!” he is a real treasure to be with. I can only imagine how drastically his world will change when we bring his baby brother home. Please keep us all in your prayers for that time.

I think that's about all the news for now. Again, if you can find some time to come to St. Louis, you are always welcome; but realize that your time is getting short. We won't be here much longer!! We pray that all is going well for you and your family.

In His Care,
Dan, Tricia & Dietrich

Tricia's Corner

It's time to hold on to your hat; changes are blowing in. Although it is technically winter here in Missouri, I'm starting to see signs that spring is coming. There are no new buds on the trees but I heard a bird sing the other day and we're getting more rain than snow lately. More than the weather is changing at our house as Dan has told you.

Dietrich is growing and interacting more every day. He enjoys reading books, stacking blocks and jumping on the couch. I've been told that he runs very fast, but I wonder if that is just the contrast of me waddling slowly after him that makes him seem so much faster. He talks constantly. I really wish I understood what he was saying. Every so often he'll catch us off guard and say a word we recognize but for the most part it is emphatic and incomprehensible. I'm sure what he is saying is very important to him; you can see it in his face. He is starting to test our limits and see how quickly we can get up to enforce our demands that he stop when he is about to hurt himself. I just hope that our hard work is sinking in. Even if it's not, I'm sure he'll learn the hard way. A good example is when he just ran off the end of the ottoman yesterday and landed on his forehead. He is all boy that is for sure. As hard as it is to keep up with him, I am still



Dietrich at lunch!!

in awe with how cute he really is. In the middle of church on Sunday he stood up in the pew facing everyone behind us and said, "hello". You just know he made someone smile 'cause he got the biggest grin on his face, like he was very proud of himself. "Hello" is the latest word in his vocabulary. He'll poke his head around corners just to say it. He'll also make sure that everyone we pass in the store smiles and says hello back to him. We sure do have a lot of fun together.

I'm doing just fine. The new baby is growing and kicking. All tests indicate that all is well. I'm starting to slow down but I can still put my own socks on. I have to appreciate the little things now. As much as I wish I could scrub the floors on my hands and knees, I enjoy watching Dietrich play with the broom and eat the piles of dirt I manage to sweep together.

Many changes are about to happen. Please pray for us as we transition into our new roles.

Tricia



A quilt Tricia finished (finally) for her mother.



Tricia & Aimee. 2 Moms to be – soon!!

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..."

Genesis 1:28a
