
KLETKE NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year

It has been a while since our last newsletter and so much has happened. Dan and I had a great time in Michigan over Christmas - it was a beautiful white Christmas. It was also a much needed gathering of our family. Not long after Grandpa passed away his brother, Uncle Al, had complications from a gal bladder surgery. He has had a few visits to ICU and a couple of very close calls but we're happy to report he is now in a rehabilitation room and is slowly gaining strength. Around the same time Uncle Al went into the hospital, Grandpa's wife Bea was admitted and diagnosed with congestive heart failure and emphesima. We are so pleased that she has stabilized and is now in an assisted living facility until she gains her strength back.

It has been a rough few months as my Granny on my Dad's side also passed away on December 20 from complications related to Alzheimer's disease. My dad had been caring for her in his home for the past two years and for the past several months she was not aware of her surroundings. I remember asking her last Christmas if she liked living in Arizona and she said "the help here is good." I thought I was going to fall off my chair because it was only her and Dad in his home. He did such a wonderful job taking care of her and I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn from him in the short time I was able to spend with them over the previous Christmas. Granted, it wasn't easy to see someone in such a deteriorated state but my spirits are lifted by the memories I have with her. She always had wonderful baked goods every time we visited (I can almost still taste her Sheep's Tails) and I have fond memories of planting corn seeds and picking fresh blueberries out of her back yard. She also introduced me to the wonderful invention of a heated blanket in the winter. It was amazing how she could keep warm in northern Michigan with just a thin comforter but now, I'm hooked and can't stay warm without mine.

I am so thankful for Dan over the past few months. He is a great comforter and even though his shoulder is a bit bony now after loosing all that weight, it still sops up the tears just as well. He also gives the best hugs. I thank God for my family, my friends and Dan for all of your support over the last few months. You are all truly a blessing. I am also encouraged with the blessing of our new great niece. God has a wonderful way of brightening our lives with the preciousness of little ones. Every day gets better than the previous. Praise God.

Tricia and Dan

Hello Alexis!!

The biggest news this month is that our niece and nephew had their first child. Beautiful Alexis Renee was born on December 10th weighing 6 lbs and 6 oz. to Amber and Braden Nemecek. She is a beautiful peanut and we're happy to report Alexis and mama are doing well. We're also so glad that Braden is going to remain stationed in Junction City, Kansas, and is not transferring to Washington State, Iraq or Korea for now. We're so happy he's staying close to home and family.



Guatemala or Bust

Tricia and I are still preparing for our trip to Guatemala and the date is coming ever closer. We have meetings with our mission team every couple of weeks now and everyone is getting VERY excited. Plane tickets have finally been bought and donations of medical and office supplies are starting to come in. With the Lord's help, it will be a very positive and productive trip.

For those of you who don't know, Tricia and I are going on a short term mission trip to Guatemala City from February 26th to March 5th. We will work in conjunction with *The Servant's Heart* mission organization (<http://www.TheServantsHeart.org>) to teach Vacation Bible School, pass out food and assist in organizing medical/hygiene clinics to the "social outcasts" of Guatemala City who live and work in the city dump. Although we are both nervous about what to expect, we are also very excited at this unique opportunity to serve our Lord and gain a new perspective on how richly we have been blessed.

I am pleased and humbled to say that Tricia and I have been able to raise almost two thirds of the cost of our trip. The continued support from friends and family has been just amazing. Thank you. If you would still like to help, we are trying to raise the last \$800. All donations are tax deductible if the checks are made out to The Servant's Heart organization and then mailed to us. We will forward them on and make sure they are credited to our account.

Please continue to pray that in the coming weeks, the Lord will ease our fears and as we travel, that our short term ministry to the "least of these" would be successful.



Christmas Eve at Mark & Joann's Home (Tricia's cousins).

Tricia's Aunt Diane is in the chair;
Diane's Grand daughter Lauren is on the floor;
Tricia's brother Doug and I are playing chess.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RACHEL'S BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 27

VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 14

WINTER QUARTER ENDS AT SEMINARY

FEBRUARY 18

PRESIDENT'S DAY

FEBRUARY 21

LEAVE FOR GUATEMALA

FEBRUARY 25

ARRIVE BACK HOME

MARCH 6

SPRING QUARTER BEGINS AT SEMINARY

MARCH 7

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30
