
KLETKE NEWSLETTER

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A Quick Break!

Well, the winter quarter is finally over and at last I have some time to let you know how things are going in St. Louis.

My activities at school are probably the least interesting of the family. I must admit that the winter quarter was one of the toughest I have had yet. Although learning Greek when I first began was definitely the most challenging of the quarters and classes I have had; this quarter was difficult because I was trying to balance home and school in a way that I had never done before. Throughout December, Tricia was still on maternity leave and I could simply leave Dietrich in her care and concentrate on my schoolwork; but at the New Year, Tricia went back to work and I started watching Dietrich when I was not in class – and suddenly my motivation to read and write papers vanished. I was able to find twice as many reasons to spend time with Dietrich than to complete my next assignment – and towards the end of the quarter when all of my papers and tests were due, it became a real challenge. Mercifully, the quarter finally ended and I am now able to relax a bit. I did manage to get all of my assignments in on time and I am sure that I passed all of my classes with respectable grades; but I also know that they will not be up to my normal standards and what I know I am capable of. Hopefully, prayerfully, the Lord will teach me better time management in the coming weeks and months. Together, Tricia and I had our vicarage interview in early January and we asked to stay local to St. Louis. Although we came to the seminary with the idea that we would embrace the adventure and let them send us anywhere for a year, Tricia's job has been such a blessing that having to leave it in August would be a blow to her career. Please pray that the seminary would see fit to leave us in the St. Louis area; but above all that the Lord's will be done. Call day is on April 25th at 3:00 pm and you are certainly all welcome to attend. If you are unable to make the trip, the seminary usually broadcasts the service live over the internet. I just returned home from touring with the seminary chorus for ten days. I should have remembered from Guatemala last year that ten days away from home is just too long; but it was a good tour and I made some good friends. Thank you to everyone who came out to the service in Topeka and Arvada. I truly appreciated your support.

As I mentioned earlier, Tricia went back to work at the first of the year and wasted no time getting back into

the swing of things. Within a week she was back up to speed on what had happened while she was gone and trying to correct and complete the numerous projects she had handed off when she left. I have to admit that I was worried that she would have a hard time going back and leaving Dietrich with me and the babysitter, and I know she had second thoughts, but she is such a great engineer and loves her work so much that she almost seemed relieved to get back into an environment where she was sure of herself and her expertise. I even think that being apart during the day makes their time together at night all the more special. For this time and in this place, things are working out about as well as could be expected.

And then there is Dietrich – he just continues to grow and grow and grow. He has started laughing and will laugh at just about anything. Tickle him just a little bit or lift him in the air and he just laughs and laughs. It has become very infectious. He has settled in at the babysitters very nicely (she says that he is the easiest baby she has ever had) and then most evenings he comes home and entertains Tricia and I. And while I was on choir tour, he spent a week with Grandma Kletke. Although he's not saying much, I think they had a good time. I have just posted new pictures on the website with a new movie too. You should be able to easily see how much he has grown.

Well, I think that's about all there is to report right now. We pray that all is going well for you and your family. May God richly bless you through this season of Lent.

In His Care,
Dan & Tricia



Dietrich with his Uncle Bruce

Tricia's Corner

We'll I'm back at work full time now and I find engineering much easier than raising a child. Lots of people had said how difficult parenting is, but I just had no clue. Watching Dietrich during those early months was difficult for me. In the world of science and engineering everything is pretty much exact and predictable. Life is the opposite with raising a child. It seems like most everything is trial and error. It takes much more patience and perseverance than I ever thought was necessary. As odd as it sounds, I feel more comfortable at work than as a mother. I feel like I know what I'm doing at work and that I'm good at it.

Now that Dietrich is a little older it seems easier. He has settled into a schedule nicely and doesn't cry nearly as much. This makes things a little more predictable; that way I'm not crying as much. :o) He eats well and has gained lots of weight over the last few months. He's filled out quite a bit and looks like a completely different baby. It's easy to make him laugh which totally makes my day. I can have a stressful day at work and it all melts away when he smiles at me. As my coworker says, "he's a nugget". I have to completely agree.

I think the transition back to work was made easier by knowing that he is well taken care of when I'm not with him. Dan does a great job with him and seems to have more patience than humanly possible. Dietrich's baby sitter is a seminary wife and does a wonderful job. I still can't figure out how he can go to her in one outfit and come home in the same outfit - with the outfit still being clean. I can't seem to keep his clothes clean.

I hope this letter finds all of you and your families happy, healthy, and blessed by the richness of God.

Tricia



"Aunt" Gwen with Dietrich in Boston



Happy Valentine's Day

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12
