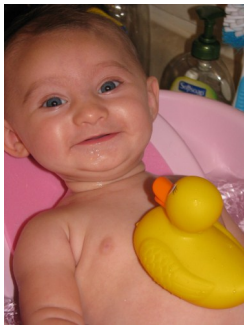


August 2012

Volume 1, Issue 2



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. - Ecclesiastes 3:1



Meet Selah Grace

Looking Ahead

- August 20— Chandler begins a new Seminary class—Global Christianity.
- September 8— GROW Club (kids club that meets in a downtown apartment complex).
- September 27— October 2 —Jamie and Selah will be taking their first adventure without Chandler to see Jamie's 2 older brothers and their families in Colorado.

So much has transpired in our lives since our newsletter a year ago that it is difficult to know where to begin. As a fair warning, this newsletter will be a little longer than normal. We have been through so much over the past year and feel we can certainly understand the weight of the words which Solomon penned in Ecclesiastes 3: 1 and 4 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance”. We have experienced much morning, but also much joy. As most of your know, Chandler’s Papa (father) passed away unexpectedly on November 5th, 2011. Never before have we experienced a loss so deep. Because this was completely unexpected we were faced with much confusion, pain, and even anger. We could not understand God’s timing and purpose in all of this. With Jamie being half way along in her pregnancy, we also mourned the fact that our child would never

have the chance to know his or her Grandpa (at this time we did not know if we were having a boy or a girl). With the prayers of our friends and family, counseling, and some wrestling with God we feel that our hearts are in the process of healing. As we learned in counseling, experiencing grief is like having a wound. At first, as the wound begins to scab it can easily break and bleed when it is hit or knocked, just as how our hearts continue to hurt at the thought of losing Chandler’s Papa. However, with time the scab will turn into a scar and serve as a memory of the wound, just as our hearts will never forget Chandler’s Papa. Our pain will never fully go away until we are reunited in Heaven one day, but the joy found in the memories of him will begin to outweigh the pain of los-

ing him.

I am convinced that God knows exactly what we need and when we need it...and I believe that is why He allowed the timing of the birth of our precious daughter, Selah Grace Sharpe. Selah was born on March 27th, 2012 at 3:48 am. She weighed 6 lbs and 8 oz and was 20 inches long. Having Selah in our lives has brought joy beyond what we could have ever imagined. It was definitely a transition welcoming her into our home, but all for the good! It has been so fun to watch her grow. She is smiling all the time now and her new favorite toys are her feet. It is hard to believe that she is almost 4 months old!





Selah and Jamie

Prayer Requests

- Direction on what God has next for us in regards to training and overseas service.
- GROW Club—that God would use us to be a light in this downtown apartment complex. That many children, and their families, would come to know Christ.
- Chandler’s class—that God would give him the strength and determination he needs during the intense 8 weeks.



So, you may ask, “What are you doing now?”

That is a very good question! Chandler is still working at Liberty University in the Military Affairs office. He has recently begun a new task within his office which is invoicing. He seems to be enjoying it and is thankful for a new challenge. We are very thankful that God has blessed us so that Jamie is able to stay home with Selah. She is doing a part-time processing job from home. As you just read above, our lives have taken several twists and turns over the past year. In our last newsletter letter we talked about being in the

application process with the International Mission Board and we were just getting ready to attend the Missions Expo Conference. A lot has also changed in this area as well. It seems as though God is now redirecting our family in another direction. To be honest, we are unsure of what the Lord has next for us, but we are sure of a few things. We have come to realize that we still have some growing to do as well as a need for further missionary training before we are ready to serve overseas. There is a missionary training school that we are cur-

rently looking into. It would help to equip us both biblically, as well as practically for the mission field. This is something that we have recently begun praying about. Please feel free to join with us as we pray and seek the Lord for His direction. It can be hard being in a season of waiting without a clear direction of what is next. However, we are reminded daily that God knows what is best for us and what our family needs at this time in our lives. We are sure that His plans are perfect and that they will come to be in His timing.

God is Faithful and Worthy of Our Trust

If you have been reading up until now, you have found that life has thrown some twists and turns. We found ourselves on both the mountaintop and in the valley during this past year, but I think it’s safe to say that more time has been spent in the valley. However, through it all, we have been learning that the awesome God whom we serve is more than faithful. He has used His Word, His people, and His soft gentle voice to remind us that He has not moved, nor has he changed. When we got married, one of the passages that we had read during the ceremony was Colossians 1:16-17 which says, “For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all

things hold together.” We are comforted by the fact that God is before everything and He is holding everything together - our lives, our plans, our desires. Really, we are seeing that it’s not about *our* lives, or *our* plans, or *our* desires - it’s HIS. Our prayer is that He would take our lives and use them for His glory! We wanted to end with a song that as become our prayer, may it be yours too.

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be Swift
and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold.

Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every power as You choose.

Take my will and make it Thine.
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord I pour
At Your feet it’s treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

With love,

Chandler, Jamie and Selah



Chandler reading to Selah