

Dear Family & Friends,

Merry Christmas! We hope and pray that this letter finds you well and looking forward to another exciting year ahead. This is our 2010 year-in-review letter, and we thank you for taking a moment to read it.

Most of you probably know about the tragic events that happened in our life in April. Our firstborn daughter Annasophia Marie (Sophie for short) arrived on April 16th, stillborn. Everything was going so smoothly with Gaby's pregnancy, and it was a shocking visit to the doctor the day before and everything that unfolded at the hospital. But we are SO BLESSED by all the wonderful support we received by family and friends at the hospital at the time, and over the weeks and months that followed. Not a day goes by that we don't think of our little girl, and "working through" the grief is a process that we are still far from done with. But we continue to thank the Lord for the support we've received, and we look forward to other little ones that He will bless us with in the future.

In a mixed blessing, we found a house that we love and moved into our new home on April 10th. Our beautiful home was built in 1924, and we've painted virtually all every room and made a number of other changes to make it ours. Shaun's company moved their offices in the Spring, and it happens that their new office space is just a few blocks away, and most days he enjoys walking to work (even now in the winter cold). It's a 2-minute car drive, so it's not enough time for the heater to warm up anyway!

We were going to go to the Philippines on another mission trip in October, but after we lost Sophie, it took everything we had to just try to get out of bed and go to work, so months went by with no fund-raising efforts, and it just didn't work out. We are planning to head back out into the mission field somewhere in 2011, and we have been doing more outreach things with our Small Group at church in recent months.

2010 saw us through a few job changes for Gaby. She started working at a local hospital administering EKG tests in the morning back in January. She's had a few different temporary assignments in the afternoon, and is currently working at a clinic near our home 3 days a week, and watching two young children in across town the other two days of the week. She has really enjoyed working with the patients in the hospital and unlike the job she had last year, she comes home smiling most days from work.

We had a couple additions on Gaby's side of the family w/ our nephew Leo that arrived for Mark & Ashley in April, and little man Carson who was born to David and Jessey in May. We've watched Carson a few times for David and Jessey and we've really enjoyed those times with the little guy who we affectionately call "chunks". We've had several get-togethers with both sides of the family throughout the year, and we look forward to even better relationships with them in 2011.

We were able to take a couple fun vacations this year as well, going down to Red River Gorge

in Kentucky over the summer and camping, and then to Gatlinburg to visit the Great Smoky Mountains in September as our anniversary (3 years!) getaway. Each of those places were a beautiful reminder of our creator's imagination and splendor. We're talking about a few possible destinations for trips next year, but nothing's set yet.

Well that's about it from us this year. We clung to each other even tighter this year and looking forward with a great deal of optimism and promise for the future. Our Christmas card here shows pictures of our sponsor kids; Diony in the Philippines, Tamirat in Ethiopia and Genesis in Nicaragua (who was born the same day as our dear Sophie). We put some of our hope in them. We hope and pray that this Holiday season finds you well and enjoying all that He has given us here in this world. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Shaun & Gaby