

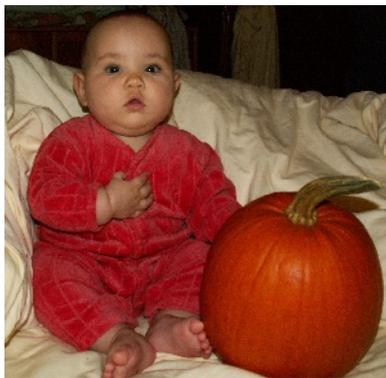
Peter & Kelly on The Way

Newsletter November 2006

Greetings from our half-underground apartment in overcast and rainy Vancouver!

Moving

The big news is that we are moving house into the sunshine! Not to Thailand yet... just to an apartment in Vancouver that is above ground and gets sunshine in through the windows – if the sun makes it through Vancouver's clouds, that is. We have been dealing with mold, dampness and dimness in our current apartment for the last months and agonizing over what to do, because –in spite of it all– we actually quite like the home we have made here in co-op housing in the neighbourhood where Kelly grew up. Kelly consciously thought “Unless someone offers us a place out of the goodness of their heart, there is no way we will be able to get approved for another place.” Later that afternoon Peter received a phone call from a woman at church who works with a Christian foundation to say that we were approved to live in one of their missionary apartments! These fully furnished apartments are made available to missionaries on a temporary basis. This answer to prayer and solution for our housing dilemma arose out of a prayer meeting at our church – God works in mysterious and practical ways through His people! Although we'll be moving again in a few months when we leave for Thailand, this move will provide us with a good opportunity to sort, pack, pare down and part with many of our belongings prior to the big move while the emotional tide is not running so high. So we are looking forward to this move, though there have been pangs of nostalgia in thinking of leaving our cosy home here where Lukas was born.



Thanksgiving! Celebrating his 5 month birthday on the bed where he was born

Lukas

Lukas himself is yet oblivious to the move and is thoroughly enjoying life as only a 5-month old can – eating, sleeping, and playing with abandon. He is a happy little guy who generously gives smiles to everyone – even to strangers on the bus or street corner. He has a ready laugh and we

have had some hilarious family 'giggle-sessions' of pure joy. Lukas' recent learning curve is in using his hands more to grab, hold and examine items. Peter has set him up with his own keyboard and he loves to bang on it with both hands together and full enthusiasm! He also loves to move his legs, which we knew even before he was born, and that has continued – one of Lukas' favourite activities



Taking after Pappa

over the last two months has been jumping in his Jolly Jumper (a harness attached to a spring suspended in a doorway). We accidentally discovered that it is even more fun in front of a mirror, although real people jumping with him is the ultimate in entertainment. He is growing well and Kelly has been accused of giving him pure cream! At the time of writing he is about 20 pounds (9 kg) and 26 inches (67 cm) long. He falls into the 99th percentile for weight and 75th percentile for height (so out of 100 babies he is heavier than 99 and taller than 75) and, according to us, into the 100th percentile for cuteness!! In short, we are in love! We are enjoying being parents – it is amazing to watch him learn and grow before our eyes. And yet, parenthood draws deep on patience, love and resilience in the face of little sleep. We are



riding the Jolly Jumper



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also growing as we discover hidden reserves and develop new capacities. Sometimes the reserves wear a little thin but so far team Passchier is managing to help each other along and survive. I wouldn't like to enter a house-keeping competition (!!)

 but we still manage to eat a few times a day, get out of the house for walks and gatherings of various kinds. We're still involved with the work among international students, see the website at internationalfriendship.net.

Towards Thailand

Some of you may be wondering about the recent coup in Thailand and whether that affects our plans. Actually, the coup has been welcomed by many Thai, and the democratic process seems to be on track again. It is almost like coups are a culturally appropriate way to intervene when a government that has gotten too corrupt. We hope and pray that the new government will do well and contribute to

stability. In terms of the spread of the Gospel, Thailand is doing far less well than the more closed countries around it. In Cambodia, Christianity is really growing fast now – a pattern that we would love to see in Thailand too, but it's a different country with a very different recent history. Yet the church in Thailand is starting to prepare for more growth, and the OMF people there are sensing that there may be new opportunities in the future. There's a call to fast & pray for the Thai people, that they may be desiring to know Jesus.



Less than 2% Christians
More than 8% Christians

Our sights are still set on Thailand and we are planning to attend the OMF orientation course in Singapore in March 2007 on our way there, although our support level will be assessed just before Christmas to see if we can go then or if we will have to go later. Further opportunities come in May, July, and then November. So far the pledged support is 40% of what we need, but we know that more is coming. We also still have some outstanding paperwork (including an unexpected requirement for Peter to get a new passport) that needs to be set in order before we are clear to leave.

The Body of Christ

We have been active this fall speaking and sharing our vision in groups of various sorts and sizes – from small groups in our church to OMF day conferences and prayer groups to a youth night with 200 young people. We have been tremendously encouraged by meeting with others who have a heart for mission and who are committed to praying with and for missionaries. It is humbling to receive the affirmation of support from others and also exciting to see the body of Christ functioning with its different parts exercising their different abilities. If you would like to hear more in person, let us know! If you would like to receive our prayer emails (shorter and more frequent than these letters), please fill in and return the attached “yellow card”, or go online to support.passchier.net. You can read all our newsletters and prayer letters on our slightly revamped website. We will be adding more photos of Lukas to his website at lukas.passchier.net for your viewing leisure. Stay tuned..!

Much love and God's blessings,

Peter & Kelly + Lukas Passchier

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Praise with us...

- for our new apartment
- for opportunities to strengthen existing friendships and to meet new people
- for people willing to partner with us in prayer and giving

Pray with us...

- for strength and stamina as we move again in the midst of a heavy load of preparations
- for wisdom in prioritizing tasks
- for prayer and financial partners to join us
- for the word of Jesus to spread in Thailand