

Merry Christmas from the Fleeners



To all,

We find ourselves at the end of another year looking back on 2005. When looking for one word to describe this year, **transition and grace** immediately come to mind. (OK, that is two words, but they are both important.)

Most of you probably don't realize it, but we did not send out a letter last year. As we approached the end of 2004 we began a very long series of transitions. We figured we would wait until things settled a bit and then fill everyone in on where we were. Well, that didn't really happen until about August of this year (in some ways it still has not completely happened), so the letter never went out.

However, there is one very important item from 2004 that must be passed on for those who may not know. All you have to do is look in the two pictures and see that there is another Fleener! Tabitha Lynn Fleener was born on November 02, 2004. She is now already over 1 year old and a wonderful addition to our family.

As 2004 came to an end we made the decision that Joe would be leaving his position as the Library Director at Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary by Summer 2005. Once that decision was made the "where do we go next?" adventure began.

2005 began like each year does with another celebration of our anniversary. On January 8th we celebrated our fifth wonderful year together (our 1st anniversary without Mandy being pregnant!).

Almost immediately there were a couple of very good "where do we go next" opportunities presented themselves. Both of them would have been employment in a field that would have utilized Joe's technology background, seminary training and desire to teach. However, they both would have required a move. Upon looking more closely at the areas, we were unable to locate a church we believed we could be an active part of. For us, that is a "show stopper." We knew the Lord did not want us to move somewhere where there was not a solid church to minister in.

As soon as those doors closed another opened. It seemed as though we found a church in Boston and the Lord was providing a ministry position that would allow Joe to work from home wherever we lived. We put our house up for sale, sold it and then discovered the church was not going to be an option after all.

We really had to trust the Lord. Without question He showed us His grace in one of the most tangible ways we can remember in a long time. Within two weeks the buyer backed out of the purchase of our home and we found a wonderful church Grace Fellowship Church (<http://www.gracelehigh.org>). To top it all off the church was only 15 minutes from where we lived! This all happened the end of July, first of August.

Since then we have been settling in to the church. The kids have some of the most wonderful friends we could ever want for them with parents who are striving to please God in their parenting; Mandy has been playing the piano some and Joe has had a few opportunities to teach. We have built some very close friendships in a short period of time. The Lord leading us to this church is certainly one of the greatest blessings of 2005.

Since August Joe has been working part-time for The Master's Academy International (<http://www.tmainternational.org>). A ministry that endeavors to coordinate and facilitate the work of mission based Training Centers. There are 15 schools right now in 12 countries. Joe has the privilege of assisting all of these schools in the area of library/technology development. The Lord has been gracious in His provision for our needs. At the same time He provided part-time work for Joe with BibleWorks (www.bibleworks.com).

The Master's Academy position was planned to go full-time at the beginning of 2006, but due to the financial needs of the organization it now looks like this position will end soon. The BibleWorks position is temporary as well.

So, where will we go next? Don't know. Our desire is to stay where we are. We love our church and would like to continue to serve there. We will watch and see how the Lord works.

*The kids are all growing so fast. Mekaela is now 4, Gavin 2 1/2, and Tabitha just over 1. They keep us very busy, and give us much to laugh about. We are seeing each of their hearts grow more and more tender to the things of the Lord. **3 John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."***

*With all the transitions taking place, possibly moving, then not moving and with three little ones at home, Mandy has been an extremely overworked wife and mother. In everyway she has been the one who has kept things together during our adventurous 2005. **Proverbs 31:29 "Many daughters have done well, you excel them all."***

As we look back on 2005 we do not have to look far to see God's wonderful grace. He has not failed to take care of our every need, many before we even knew they were coming.

As we look ahead to an uncertain 2006 we know that God has not and will not change! To God be the glory.

Have a wonderful Christ-focused Christmas,

Joe, Mandy, Mekaela, Gavin, and Tabitha Fleener

Family Pictures: <http://family.digitalexegesis.com> Joe's Blog: <http://emethaletheia.blogspot.com>

Joe: jfleener@digitalexegesis.com

Mandy: sewingtruth@digitalexegesis.com

141 N. 11th St.

Allentown, PA 18102

(610) 351-6561