

May 2011

ACME Update



In Nepal and growing...



Hello from Jumla!

Dear friends and family,

We've been here just under a month so far and are settling in. Here's a quick update:

What's different:

Andrew teaching at KTS (a technical school near us): He was invited to teach before we left and that invitation was reconfirmed shortly after we got back. He's teaching beekeeping and loving it!

Contact with the ladies: It has seemed harder to get to know the women around here than the men. Since coming back with the babies, I've had more opportunities to talk with ladies on the road, in our neighborhood, and at church. On a slightly more funny note, the sufficiency of my milk supply is a constant topic of discussion with both men and women. We were stopped by a group of men on the road the other day who wanted to ask Andrew a question. First the group confirmed that the girls were twins, then asked how old they were and what they were eating. When Andrew responded they were just drinking my milk, a murmur of surprise went through the group and the man nearest me repeated the question to me to make sure there was no confusion. I never realized what a privilege it is to be able to sit in our house in my special nursing chair and feed the girls as many times as I need, and to eat and drink all I need to make lots of milk. Most women here have to work in the fields and can only feed their babies a couple times a day and only have enough food to support minimal milk production. I knew these facts before, but after having my own babies and experiencing the love and drive to give them all they need, I feel deeply for mothers here who have that same impulse but whose circumstances don't allow them to give that kind of care to their babies.



We love hearing from you:

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A few more pictures on our blog: (last updated May 12th)

<http://www.burks-burks.blogspot.com/>

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Friends: We've had a houseful of guests and have been very blessed by their fellowship and help. Mariah (the friend who came back with us) has been an incredible help with the babies and on top of that she says she found her "niche" washing our diapers and laundry every day! She is a servant and a ray of sunshine—thank you to everyone who had a part in sending her out with us! The other guests are friends who plan to join us in Jumla in the future—God is giving us a wonderful community here.

What's the same:

The Church: We are enjoying being back and Andrew is doing some teaching again.

The farm: Lots of things were planted and growing when we arrived, and since then we've been able to plant more vegetables and flowers. In the past week stuff has taken off in the garden and Mariah and I take daily walks with the babies through the various plots to see how things have progressed. It really is a miracle what abundance can come from a small seed. The new apple varieties that Andrew grafted a few months ago were largely successful and in a year or two we should be able to start distributing them.

Neighbors, landlord, and didi (the woman who works for us): We are enjoying getting to know these individuals better and navigating life's twists and turns with them.

Please pray for:

Wisdom in our relationships and insight into where to direct our energies. Andrew especially feels like he's got more on this plate than he can do well, and it is hard to know where to focus energy and time.

Praise God the babies have been doing incredibly well. Please continue to pray for their health and safety.



Mariah, with Elise and Maya



Andrew cutting meat for our new smoker.

Our house: It seems that it is dustier and more infested with rats and bugs than we remember. We're looking into ways to deal with these problems, but answers aren't easy (what we wouldn't give for some sheetrock and a shop vac!), and we don't want to lose joy over these small, but persistent struggles.

Praise God we've had internet access! There is an internet cafe in Jumla now, and when there is power, we can access internet fast enough to update our blog and download email. It has been great to have this option. However, we have been hearing rumors that the hydro plant that powers the valley is either about to break or needs cleaning. All accounts are consistent that we'll be without power for a month or so, starting this coming week. That means our internet access will be gone for awhile, so this may be our last communication for a bit. Pray that the hydro gets fixed quickly (and for long life for our flashlight batteries :-)

We are grateful for all of you and your prayers,

In Him,

ACME (Andrew, Colleen, Maya & Elise)