

I love these Christmas newsletters. Really, I do, because it's such a great opportunity to not only connect with loved ones near and far, but also to reflect on the moments that make up our lives. 2006 has been an incredible year for our expanding family; a year ago we were living in Spain in an unheated apartment. Our time overseas was a 'make it or break it' time for us as a couple, especially with the reality of raising our first child so far from family and friends. We regularly thank God for preparing our hearts for that time; we made it, and we came out *better* as husband and wife! You can't ask for more.



Graduated At Last!



We both graduated with our BA's in Cross Cultural Studies in Sept; a well-earned landmark celebrated with our parents. For weeks we prepared for the visit with pictures of each grandparent and naming them accordingly; but in the end Eden just called everyone 'Gramma'. We'll try again at Christmas!

Mentors at Bethany College

After graduation we chose to stay on campus as live-in mentors for the married students. It's a great way to channel our passion to help people walk in the fullness of who they were created to be. In exchange for this we get to live in our own lovely 2 bedroom apartment (heated and carpeted! Wow!! What a change from Spain!). More students start this January, so we will have even more people to get to know, and walk alongside during their missionary training.



Delightful Eden

Eden turned one in January, and has since blown us away with the leaps and bounds of children in their first year. As she approaches 2 she is a walking, talking, playing, constantly discovering wonder! Some special highlights of this year have been traveling overseas with her (especially to Spain and Greece!), finally getting over her fear of walking by herself this summer, and upgrading to a big bed (she's a roller!) The New Year will hold many precious moments for this little wonder; one of which will be welcoming her first sibling to our family. April Fools Day is the due date (we both sense this kid has quite the sense of humour!)

2007 eh?

Our mentoring commitment ends in August; after that, well, we've got some dreams a-cookin', but nothing public yet. Sometimes the future seems like a fog and all we know is the next few steps. God has always faithfully led us through the fog, one step at a time. Perhaps we will be led to see you in person sometime soon? We always hope and look forward to those times. Distance does indeed make the heart grow fonder.

With fondness and love,

GAVIN, TARA, Eden & 'lil-bun-in-the-oven