

2 0 1 1 C H R I S T M A S E D I T I O N

the VAN SETERS family

A YEAR OF CHANGES BIG AND SMALL
SORT OF LIKE 2010, 2009, 2008, ETC ETC ETC

✧ Dear loved ones ✧

Merry Christmas to you from cold and wet Cloverdale! We find ourselves at the end of a beautiful stretch of sunny weather and into the rain again. Perhaps it will turn to snow but so far it's just wet.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

In May we welcomed Tristan Josiah into the world. At 6lbs 15oz he was a little guy to begin with, and he's still a little guy now. He is doing very well but the doctors would like to see him a little bigger than he is. Although developmentally he is great, we have just found out that he is a bit iron deficient and is showing the precursor to protein deficiency. It means that we have to monitor his solids intake very carefully and give him iron supplements. His favourite food is avocado which make for messy mealtimes! Tristan also has a small cyst on one of his kidneys which means he has to get ultrasounds every few months to

be sure that it's not growing. So far the doctors are happy - it has remained the same size and they do not think that it is malignant. He's a total snuggler and very much in love with his mom. He also giggles hilariously at the girls and their antics but can often be found just hanging out with Dad, especially when Dad has Lego.



The Way

to Christmas lies through an ancient gate ... It is a little gate, child-high, child-wide, and there is a password:

"Peace on earth to men of good will."

May you, this Christmas, become as a little child again and enter into His kingdom.

- Angelo Patri



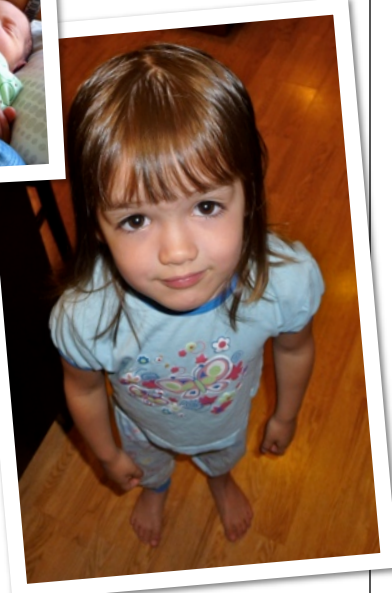


The Girls

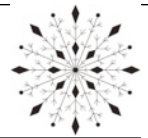
Emma (5) finished her second year of preschool and was sad to go. She loved her teachers and friends there very much. She started in Kindergarten in September at William of Orange Christian School in Cloverdale. After the first few days of school she told her teacher that she should be in Grade 1. The teacher thought that it was a plucky thing to say, but after a few weeks thought that perhaps Emma was onto something. After many discussions and prayers, she moved into Grade 1 at the end of October. It was a tricky transition as it meant going from 2 days a week of school to 5 days. So far she is really enjoying it and she is being challenged. She loves lunchtime and the playground the best, of course! She is crazy about her baby brother and loves to help feed him. She also has developed quite a fashion sense and daily picks her own outfits.



Caelyn has become quite the firecracker this year. Her personality is every bit as dynamic as her sister's and she doesn't like to be pushed around just because she is small, thank you very much! She's not even 30 pounds but has a voice and sassiness that makes sure you notice her! She started preschool this year and enjoys all of the fun activities there. The preschool is 2 afternoons a week and is at the school right behind Emma's school so we can walk between them to pick them up. Caelyn also is a budding fashionista and can often be found wearing her favourite bright blue rain pants or nothing at all.



The Parents



Maggie is in rehearsals right now for a musical to be produced in June 2012. She's playing Anna in "The King and I" and is finding it to be a very challenging role. The first few months she had to bring Tristan to rehearsal but he's ready to stay at home now with Dad or a babysitter so she will be able to concentrate more during rehearsals. She's been trying to get on top of life as a mother of three but definitely finds it challenging to manage all of the different things that these crazy children need from feeding to dressing to printing practice to where to store all of the crafts and papers they bring home from school. She is also starting to get involved in the life at the school with volunteering for fundraisers and helping out occasionally in the class or on field trips. She joined the women's Bible Study at church and is trying to get some renovations to happen in the church nursery.



John is busy with work and church and family life. He retired from playing soccer with the Celtics this year but does manage to play volleyball twice a week (www.tncvl.com). John is back on Council at church as a deacon and finds it very challenging as the dynamics of our congregation have changed a lot in the last few years. With the economy where it is, money is tight for church and families alike. ITB has been incredibly blessed with more work than it can handle and so John is very busy as Sales & Marketing Manager there. He does his best to



be home with his wife and kids as much as possible, but there are some late nights both at the church and the office! We are also continuing with our little Bible study doing The Truth Project from Focus on the Family.



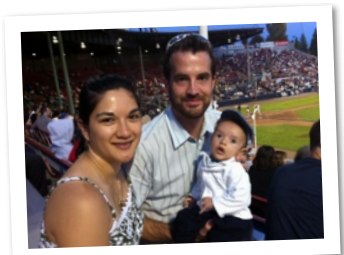
Travels and other things

At the end of January Maggie and John enjoyed 10 days in Huatulco, Mexico, with the ITB board and shareholders. It was a nice time of relaxing and hundreds of stairs - the resort had no elevators! John got in touch with his "inner self" (he puked a lot) but did get the chance to go scuba spear-fishing! In March John went to Indianapolis for a big trade show with Anieta and Nathan. Then we pretty much just "nested", preparing for baby to arrive.



When he did get here, we took him and the girls on a roadtrip to Smithers for the Van Dyke family reunion in late July. Even though it was cold and rainy most of the time, everyone had lots of fun, especially the girls who got play outside with their cousins in the mud all day long. In August we headed up to Kamloops for a few days for a beautiful wedding. It was a gloriously hot weekend and the wedding was a small outdoors event on a ranch so it was a fun day for us all. Tristan has been getting a lot of grown-up culture with Mom and Dad, as he has accompanied them to an outdoor play in Stanley

Park, a Sarah McLachlan and a Vancouver Canadians baseball game.



We spent most of the summer getting work done in our backyard. John designed a new patio and garden and then helped the workers pour the concrete. He and his brother Rob built the garden boxes and then he trucked in wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of dirt and gravel to fill it all in. We finally had our first al fresco dinner on the new patio on August 31 - just

in time for fall (and the wasps) to come! In October we took a family holiday down to Phoenix, Arizona for a week. We had a great time in the sun and were able to relax with lazy mornings, lots of cartoons and pool time, and few black widow spiders. We also enjoyed fun outings to the Mesa Zoo, the Museum for Youth, the Apache Trail (and prickly pear ice cream), and Organ Stop Pizza. We can't wait to go back and make more family memories!



BIRTHDAYS

JAN 16
2006
Emma

APRIL 17
2008
Caelyn

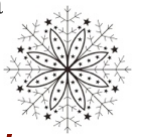
MAY 25
2011
Tristan

JUNE 30
Maggie

NOV 29
John



We've been blessed immeasurably this year with abundance in all regards, especially the health of our children and the love and friendship of family members, and an active church fellowship. Our Lord and Saviour has been gracious to us and we fully rely on God for everything in this life. It is in Him that we live and move and have our being. We pray that as you reflect on the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, you will find a God of love and grace who will guide and sustain you through your every moment.



May you enjoy a richly blessed 2012!



Love and Prayers,



*John
Maggie
Emma
Caelyn
&
Tristan*



<http://maggieandjohn.wordpress.com>

<http://bullfrogsandbutterfliesphotography.com/index2.php#/proofing/> (password is tristan)

