

Dimmock Family News — Christmas 2011

We're Dreaming of a Green Christmas — and we might get it!



Nathan and Leah are Married!

Nathan and Leah get the front page of our Christmas newsletter again. They were married in Hampton, VA on September 4, 2011, which also happened to

be Frank's birthday! Their siblings were their attendants, which worked out to be 5 boys and 5 girls. Jackson was their ring bearer, and oh so proud of the responsibility. Granddad, Dave Miller, officiated and "tied the knot" well!



Katie, Alifa and Jesse at the rehearsal.



The new Mr. and Mrs.!

to Virginia over Labor Day weekend. The long drive with extra friends of the family, meeting Leah's family, an afternoon of play at the beach, the rehearsal (great speech by the best man, which had us all choked up), and the wedding itself, were all great fun and very special.

Nathan and Leah are living in an apartment in Hampton and are adjusting with joy (for the most part!) to real life as a married couple. Leah continues to work as a receptionist/youth and women's ministry leader at a large Baptist church, and Nathan is working as a welder in one of the shipyards. They would like to get their school loans paid off and

get "on their feet" before applying to serve on the mission field somewhere. We know that God is accomplishing His wonderful plan for their lives now and has much in store for their future.

They will be coming down to North Carolina where we will ALL be gathering for Christmas!

We are on furlough this year and living in Decatur, Georgia. So we rented a 15-seater van and made the trek

Merry Christmas 2011 from the Dimmocks!



In our family devotions the other night we read about clues to God's great mystery. From the time Adam and Eve sinned, God promised he would send a Savior who would free people from their sin. All through the Old Testament, God reminded

the people of His promise and His writers wrote clues so people would recognize the Savior when he came. The OT contains more than 400 clues and every single one came true, and every single one came true in Jesus Christ!

They said Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), be born of a

virgin (Isaiah 7:14), and be a descendant of David (Isaiah 16:5). All of these things, plus many more, came true. Because of Bible clues, we can know for sure that Jesus is the Savior. Our whole family found that to be really cool and really good news!

We are so thankful to God for the gift of faith, and for pointing us to the Savior.

Jesse in Georgia — and a few other places



Jesse in Netherlands in November, attending her good friend's wedding.

In February, Jesse drove to Atlanta from western NC to attend Sechaba's baptism. Sechaba was one of our foster kids from Lesotho, who was adopted by a family in

our home church in Georgia! (He is doing wonderfully well.) Sechaba's new dad asked Jesse to help him implement his vision for helping young people gain life skills and perspective by reaching "beyond themselves". She was finishing her year as an intern in the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in Montreat, NC in April, so she started work on *Beyond Self* in May (check it out online at www.beyondself.org). She was able to help get it established as an official

non-profit, with logo, website, official status, and many contacts, but found her own youthfulness to be a detriment to getting actual programs up and running. She resigned in November and has plans to attend the Art Institute of Atlanta next year, taking their one-year program in photo journalism. Her hope is to use these new skills to help a mission sending organization (PCUSA? SIM?) interpret what God is doing through them, from their fields of service. Have camera, will travel!

Jackson—big 7-year old



Jackson JUST turned 7 on December 12, also with a party at Chuck E Cheese. He continues to delight us with his "Jackisms" spoken so articulately.

"You know what I'm REALLY looking forward to tomorrow?" "No, what?"

"Waking up in the morning and getting dressed for school!"

He was a dragon for Halloween, and on his walk around the neighborhood, knocking on doors and receiving candy, he kept saying, "This is the best night EVER!"

Life is great for Jack — full of learning, and reading and playing with next-door-neighbor, age-mate twins, John and Joseph McGill.



Katie loves to worship God.

Katie was with us in Lesotho for the first half of 2011, taking another break from college and working again as assistant PE teacher in the kids' international primary school. She also worked with the youth at the international church. She grew

in her love of worship music, and, in June, led a worship service/concert at the orphanage from which she came. What a blessing for everyone involved!

She helped us pack up and we came back to the U.S. to-

gether in mid-July. She is enrolled in college once again, trying to complete her Associate's Degree online, while living with us at Mission Haven in Decatur — where we are on furlough until mid-2012. We are blessed to have this time with her.



Katie's audience at the orphanage.

Isaac and American football



Isaac turned 9 at the end of October with a party at Chuck E Cheese. His new friends are into American Football, so he is embracing the game with the fervor of a fanatic. Not only does he play every afternoon, but has learned the

names and stats of most college and professional players too!



Alifa

Alifa had a tough year at the secondary school in Lesotho. She found the environment harsh and really struggled academically and socially. She is actually liking school in the U.S., finding genuine, loyal friends and teachers who care and do not use shame as a motivator. She is in the 7th grade at the public middle school here in Decatur.

She has grown into a beautiful young lady, who is sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. She is talkative and full of fun. Also messy and creative! We have to take a shovel to her bedroom on a regular basis! :)

Moses is Back!



Moses got back from Northern Ireland in August. He would say that his year as a Young Adult Volunteer was both enriching and challeng-

ing. He especially enjoyed his interactions with the kids at the 174 Trust and misses his friends and colleagues there.

He has joined the multitude of other unemployed college graduates in the U.S. job market. It has been frustrating, but he continues to keep sending his resume out far and wide, and we are hopeful that he will find something "just right" in the right time.

Meanwhile, he did take a three-week temporary job

with Samaritan's Purse, which he thoroughly enjoyed. They were packing containers with the Christmas child shoe boxes, and sending them off with much prayer. He very much appreciated the devotional environment and feeling like he was a part of something big.

He is living with us in Decatur, and has been such a help with his younger siblings, helping to maintain the household when Mom and Dad have both been away speaking in churches around the country.

"We cannot do great things on earth, but we can do small things with great love." Mother Theresa



Proud Dad and proud best man, Moses at Nathan's wedding.

Andrew — Skaterboy



Andrew continues to grow and grow. He's 14 now and at 5'10" has passed Moses and is catching up fast to his Dad. His new

passion here in the U.S. is skateboarding. He's developed a whole new vocabulary and, out of self defense, so have we! We are learning about bone bearings and thunder trucks and various decks and shoes! He spends his spare time on you-tube learning the moves and then practicing

them in our driveway. He is a natural.

School continues to be something to endure, but he is figuring out the system here in the U.S. and is doing better.



Daddy Frank



Frank visited South Africa, Ethiopia, D.R. Congo, and Malawi during the first half of 2011, anticipating that it would be awhile before he could get back to these places to encourage folks and visit projects. He has returned to Africa this fall for meetings with PCUSA Africa regional staff and again to facilitate a meeting of the Board of African Christian health Associations.

He and Nancy are sharing a very busy itineration schedule and enjoy meeting folks throughout the U.S. who are interested in mission. He has also attended training sessions on trauma healing and on the growing phenomenon of children accused of witchcraft. Family time, emails, and reading occupy the remainder of his schedule. He will be working with a group to update the "Africa's Children" publication that he worked on during our last home assignment in 2006.

Thanksgiving was a time to spend together with many of the Dimmock extended family in Montreat (pictured on the left). We are so thankful for family. We are also very thankful for the prayers and support of so many throughout the U.S.. You make it possible for us to work with African partners in health and with children's ministries.

In January, Frank will visit two Early Childhood Development Projects in western Ethiopia. He has been excited about the potential of giving young pre-school children a "head start". We are praying for peace in the DRC following contested elections and for good governance and a resolution to the economic challenges in Malawi. Frank is concerned with the implications of conflict, displacement and food insecurity for the most vulnerable groups—children and women. PCUSA World Mission has identified 3 critical global issues to strategically

direct mission work. These include: addressing the root causes of poverty (especially as they affect women and children), sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, and engaging in reconciliation amidst cultures of violence. Please pray for and support the World Mission program of the PCUSA.



In January, 2011, 3 more children were brought to Ministry of Hope Lesotho for rehab and preparation for adoption. And my dear colleague, Mamonyane, began her breastfeeding support program with a mother of twins! Then 4 more children, not scheduled for adoption, were brought in May for nutritional support. You can imagine how difficult it was for me to leave my friend "in the

Mama Nancy

lurch" with the full burden of the ministry on her shoulders. I was grieving during our final weeks of packing up, in June. However, the pastor of our church in his Sunday sermon before we left said, "often God separates us from the people we love in order for both sides to grow up." So that must be what we are doing during this year of separation – we are growing up in the different ways that we need to grow!

The highlights of 2011 for me have been the wonderful times of family gatherings. Katie was with us for the first six months of the year in Lesotho. Nathan and Leah were able to come for two weeks in late June. (We may have overwhelmed Leah with our "Africa orientation", but she seemed to enjoy it and take it all in stride!) We were able to travel through Northern Ireland on our way back to the States in July and saw Moses and met some of the people that meant a lot to him during the year. And we reconnected with our Northern Irish/Malawi missionary "family" which was special.

Good times with my mom and dad (who remain in good health), experi-



encing the "Fun Factory" with my younger brother and his family, and brief visits with big brother, David and his family, have been great. Both were able to come to the wedding, as were all of Frank's family! We also had a special Dimmock gathering over Thanksgiving, at which time we heard news that three new cousins are on the way — all to be born in the spring.

Here in Decatur, there are 8 of us living in the biggest house available at Mission Haven, with Jesse just a 5-minute drive away. The "big kids" help with the "little kids" while Frank and I travel, and we have shared lots of meals and activities together. We miss being near Nathan and Leah, but are SO looking forward to time with them over Christmas.

We wish you all the joys of this season of amazing Good News — "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!"

