



# The Smith Soundings Merry Christmas!

“For this I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations,  
and sing praises to Your name.” 2 Samuel 22:50



FAMILY PICTURE ON THANKSGIVING 2009

## A Year of Praise!

Dear friends,

We always enjoy writing our December annual update letter to all of you. It gives us the chance to reflect on what God has done over the past year and also to again relate to you all how your support has blessed our lives.

This year has truly given us many reasons to abound with PRAISE to our God! Before we begin to tell of His blessings, we want to thank all of you again for keeping us in your prayers this year. Having your prayer support has encouraged us immensely! From all our prayers, God hears us saying, “We are depending on you, God, to bear fruit through us, for your glory.” That is so true!

We started this year in the middle of a lesson of trust and faith as we anticipated the birth of our little boy, Judah. Elizabeth was 23 weeks pregnant, and started to go into labor prematurely. This earned her 3 weeks in the hospital and a total of 3 months on complete bedrest. Many of you kept up with us on our blog and through our update letters, hoping and praying that God would sustain this pregnancy and allow our son to be born full term. Elizabeth made it to 36 weeks gestation, and Judah Andrew was born on Good Friday, April 10th. Praise the Lord! Judah is such a blessing to us, and we daily give thanks for him in our family! More on Judah later...

While Elizabeth rested in bed, Andy continued deputation meetings around the Midwest. Many churches graciously opened their doors to him as he traveled and presented alone—not his favorite thing to do, but God gave him the grace and strength to do it. After Judah was 2 months old, we resumed our meetings together, and got to introduce Judah to the deputation ministry that we have come to love. Now that Judah is 8 months old, he is a pro at traveling and meeting new people! We always know when it’s Sunday because Judah wears a smile all day long! (A good deputation baby!) He is so social and loves all the attention he gets from the people in the churches we visit.

In June we moved into our fifth-wheel trailer. Our plan was to move into the trailer only temporarily while we took it with us on our next deputation trip out East. Upon leaving for our trip in July, we fully anticipated moving back into the parsonage when we returned to Iowa in November. However, our hearts were asking God to provide enough of our financial support need (at least 85%) so that we wouldn’t have to move out of our trailer at all, and could just go directly to full time ministry as builders. It was a big request, but we have a big God!

We had a wonderful trip out East! We were able to park our fifth-wheel in the parking lot of Covington Baptist Church. This church was the epitome of sacrificial as they worked to anticipate our every need while we were there. They provided encouragement to us as they included us in their church activities, gave us food from their gardens, offered their help with maintenance chores on the truck and trailer and even gave Elizabeth some Caffeine-Free Diet Coke! We thank God for giving us such a nice place to stay while we were continuing our deputation meetings out East.

Praise God for answered prayers! We now have 93% of our financial support need! It is truly amazing to us as we consider that God has increased our support level by 17% in the last two months! God has surpassed what we could even imagine! Because we have reached this level, we have been able to continue to live in our fifth-wheel trailer and we are spending the winter months at a campground in Tama, IA. We are looking forward to our first building project as full time builders next spring!

### Trivia Corner:

1. On our 4-month deputation trip we played the “license plate game” and saw 49/50 state license plates. Try to guess the one state plate we didn’t see. (Answer below).
2. Did you know?...While in Pennsylvania, we were sitting on top of the Marcellus shale, which produces one of the largest deposits of natural gas in the US. The communities around us were getting paid around \$5,700/acre for the mineral rights to their land!

Answer: We didn’t see South Dakota! We finally saw it a week after returning home when we went to Sioux City, IA to see our new niece.

## Baby's First Christmas:

We always like to include a section about our ever-changing and ever-expanding family in each of our annual updates. As of the most recent count, we now have 20 nieces and nephews between the both of us! This year we welcomed three new babies into our family, one of which was our little Judah. The other two were born just within that last few months: Ryan Charles Brant was born September 1st and Hope Malowyn Demarest was born on November 16th. You all will be joyful to know that little Hope is in answer to your prayers for Elizabeth's twin sister, Deborah. Last year, Deborah and her husband endured the death of their first daughter after a premature birth, but this year they welcome a new daughter, Hope. We are praising the Lord for this answer to prayer! Deborah, like Elizabeth, had some time on bedrest, but was able to make it through that hardship and now has a wonderful little girl in her care! God answered our prayers and allowed us to be in Iowa at the time of the birth so we could help welcome Hope into the world.



For more pictures of Judah, visit our website:  
[www.andyandelizabethsmith.com](http://www.andyandelizabethsmith.com)

## Looking Ahead:

We are done with deputation meetings for this year and we are looking forward to having a few weeks off for the holidays and being at our sending church in Marshalltown, Iowa. We anticipate working with the Awana program on Wednesday nights and helping out on the nursery schedule once and awhile. We have also been able to schedule four meetings for next spring in Minnesota and Iowa. We are praying for God to give us more deputation meetings for next spring, if it be His will. We would like to reach our goal of 100% financial support.

Many of you are probably wondering, do we know where our first building project will be? The answer is no, not yet. The building ministry staff in the CBM home office is working hard to organize next year's projects. We have been assured that as soon as they know where the next project will be, we will be some of the first people to know! We are anxious to find out where God will lead us for our first project! What an exciting time in our lives! Thank you, Lord!

Our time on deputation has been, on the whole, a wonderful experience. This time has been used to mature us and make us more dependant on God and His provision. We feel a bittersweet feeling as we think about this stage in our life coming to an end, but we so look forward to serving full time on the mission field with the other CBM builders! Thank you for praying us through this entire deputation process! Thank you also to those of you who support us financially! We look forward to the partnership that we will share in the years to come as we build churches for the glory of God!

We are thankful for a year spent realizing God's blessings and praising His name. Though next year is filled with many unknowns right now, we look forward to moving ahead in the next phase of our ministry as builders with CBM.

Thank you again for your prayers and financial support! We praise God for you and how He is using you in our lives! We pray you enjoy the Christmas season with friends and family, and remember each reason you have to Praise Him!

*Merry Christmas,*

**Andy, Elizabeth, & Judah Smith**

### *New Address:*

*We have changed our permanent address since moving into our 5th-wheel trailer.*

*Please send correspondence to:*

*1403 S. 3rd Ave.*

*Marshalltown, IA 50158*



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