

THE POLAR News Flash

April 2009

"The Baby Edition"

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"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." - Psalm 27:14

The wait is over! For 9 months we waited to meet baby Thomas. While he was still inside mother, we read him stories, sang to him, talked to him, and prayed for him. Why God chose to make parents wait 9 whole months is one answer that we may have to wait until heaven to find out.

Baby Thomas himself has truly been a blessing to us, while our friends and family have also blessed us in a huge way. We have had to buy almost nothing for Thomas, as clothes, diapers, bedding, and everything in between have been given to us. We also have had a lot of help around the house and with meals after baby came home.

Thank you everyone that has helped us transition into parenthood!

Ministry Update

The three student-built houses in Kenai are looking good. With windows, siding, and interior walls, the Houses of Hope '09 are coming along. Even though the school year is technically finished in the beginning of May, some of the students plan on staying into the summer to help finish construction. The staff hope to see 2 of the 3 houses finished and sold by the end of the summer. In the meantime, Adam is finishing up the spiritual formation class that he taught all year long and is beginning to prepare for graduation. Adam is also pleased to report that two of the students this year are planning on getting married and going into ministry together. (Look for more about these two next time).

Volcano Update

On March 15th, Mt. Redoubt began to erupt, and continues to do so. From March 15th thru April 7th, there have been 19 major eruptions of the volcano that is only 50 miles from our home. A major eruption sends a cloud of ash at least 25,000 feet in the air (the highest ash cloud so far was around 65,000 feet). Even though Redoubt has sent ash up as high as St. Helens did in 1980, we have been fortunate that the impact of the eruptions have not been nearly as disastrous. Many communities within a short drive of us have seen us much as 1.5 inches of hazardous ash fall, though we have only seen a trace amount fall at our house. Ash can be a real health concern and an annoyance as it destroys electronics and engines. We appreciate your prayers that God continues to watch over us as the volcano erupts.

Graduation

As AEC students get ready for graduation, Shirleen is also getting ready to graduate! After attending 8 colleges on her road to a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Shirleen will walk across the aisle to receive her diploma on May 5th. Shirleen is thrilled to be certified to teach in Alaska and looks forward to doing so. If Adam gets a scholarship and goes to Seminary in the fall, her plan is take a year off of work and school and be a full-time mother. Her long-term goal is still to teach in a small village in rural Alaska.

Want to see more of baby Thomas and the volcano?

www.PolarNewsFlash.com

Have you visited our website lately? We update our blogs (online journals) frequently and we post pictures of baby Thomas, the volcano, Shirleen's teaching internship, the ministry of Amundsen Educational Center, and other fun things!

We have also updated many other pages on our website and we love visitors! Please take a few minutes (or more) to take a look at our website, and while you are there, be sure to leave us a comment, or a message of encouragement letting us know that you pray for us.

Donating online is also quick, safe, and easy on our website. *Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us through prayers and finances!*

Getting to Know the Londons



On March 31st at 8:03 pm, after 47 hours of labor, Shirleen gave birth to a handsome baby boy. He was a small little guy: 6 lbs. 14.9 oz., 20.5 inches long, with a 13.5 inch head, and a 13 inch chest.

However, he made up for his tiny size by his big name: Thomas Joseph Nayuk Qapqan Yee-Chang London. He has English, Inupiaq-Eskimo, and Chinese names. They parallel his mother's names: Shirleen Joy Patuk Aaglu Mun-Fung London.

Baby Tommy also makes up for his small stature by being a ferocious eater. We do not expect him to stay tiny for long at the rate he is going!

Both mom and baby are happy and healthy, and mom is amazed at how Tommy changes and grows every single day.

Papa has enjoyed 2 weeks of paternity leave from Amundsen Educational Center in order to help around the house and to get to know his son better. Papa is excited for his little fisherman who will one day help fill the freezer for the winter with him.

Tommy hopes that all of his friends and family come visit soon.

SnapShots



AEC students getting ready to put windows in. The "open house" for the student built houses is on April 24.



Adam changing baby Thomas for the first time.
Shirleen thought it was very funny.



This is a picture of the volcano on March 31st, the day Thomas was born. As you can see, it was excited.



Volcanic ash has fallen in communities all throughout our region, and many people have had fun taking pictures.



Shirleen with the Amundsen Educational Center students when baby Thomas was barely 2 hours old!



Baby Thomas with Shirleen and her mom. Thomas will call her "Aaka", the Inupiaq name for grandmother.



Happy parents with baby Thomas and our good friend Nick Bruckner who agreed to be Thomas' Godfather.

- ### Prayer Requests
- Praise God for a happy and healthy baby and mom! Please continue to pray for us as first time parents.
 - Praise God that Shirleen had a fun and exciting experience during her internship. Also praise God that Shirleen is set to finally graduate!
 - Praise God for raising up financial supporters to help us get to full salary this month for the first time this year! Please pray for God's continued provision.
 - Please pray for Amundsen Educational Center staff and students as the school year draws to a close next month. Pray for lives to be permanently transformed.
 - Please continue to pray for Adam as he waits to hear from the scholarship committee to attend Seminary.



Friends from our church were nice enough to paint and set up the nursery for us...it looks awesome!