

Merry Christmas



Friday, December 17, 2004

Dear Family & Friends,

Greetings to you once again from Texas!

I was making cookies at 12:45 a.m. and got a call from an old friend stating that his wife was going into labor. He had asked me the previous week that if the baby was coming after 8:00 p.m. could I come over and watch the kids while he and his wife went to the hospital. I got to my friend's house and they left at 1:30 a.m. for the hospital. Amaris & Josiah (pictured above) woke-up at 7:15 a.m. and while the kids were getting ready for school, I called my friend to check on the progress of the birthing. He told me that Ellianna Marie was born at 7:49 a.m. weighting 7 lbs. 3 oz. and 19" long and as you can see from this picture she is cute. This event refreshed the idea that in order for great things to come forth great sacrifices are needed to be made.

If you are a parent, you probably understand what it takes to raise children, but the great plans for these young people when they become adults are beyond our comprehension. I am not a parent however. The students this year representing six different nations have been accepted as family, since many are away from their relatives. The same day that Ellianna Marie was born, I was up until 2:00 a.m. because I listened for one hour like a parent to a student's concerns.

God had a plan for us to be restored in loving relationship with Him which required a great sacrifice. Jesus Who was all powerful, humbled himself to be born a helpless infant, and his parents, Mary and Joseph, had no comprehension of why, or how the great purposes of God were going to be carried out. Jesus was challenged and overcame all forms of enticement, and He then died for us a horrible and cruel death which He did not deserve. Through this great sacrifice God's plan for man to be restored in loving relationship with Him came about.

Let us therefore, remember the huge sacrifice that He made and the promises of great plans for us and the next generation.

Sincerely,

David