

October 4, 2004

Dear Friends,

I am writing this month's letter from a coffee shop in Fenton, Michigan — our new home town! We have moved out of our home in Royal Oak and have moved in with Lisa's parents in Fenton. I wrote recently to the rest of the staff at Campus Crusade who went through new staff training with us that I was living the American dream: 35 years old with three kids, living with my in-laws!

No matter how much I told myself in years past that God is our provider it still felt like I was the one doing the providing for my family. I went to work and put in hard hours and the paycheck was what I earned. It had my name on it. The step that we have now taken shows us that God truly is our provider, and his provision meets our faith. And where our faith is lacking, His grace more than covers us. From man's viewpoint what we are doing makes no sense. I am doing nothing productive; I'm not making anything, or providing a service for anyone.

What you are doing with us also makes no sense from a human point of view. You are giving us your support so that I can spend my time being non-productive! But of course when we look from God's perspective we know that all of this has great value for the Kingdom, and none of us are doing this for earthly treasure or comfort. We will all share in the eternal reward of seeing God's Kingdom come and all peoples of the earth gathered around the throne in praise to Him. That is the perspective that I try to keep as I leave the comfort of my earthly situation and step out in faith that God will provide all my needs.

Lisa's Thoughts

These past few weeks have been pretty frantic for me — trying to pack up our house with three little ones underfoot was quite a challenge! But with God's grace, everything was done when it needed to be.

The girls really have a knack for being underfoot, too. With Micah joining the ranks of the walking a few weeks ago, it's all I can do to keep up with them. They're really enjoying the attention they get from Grandma and Papa, and seem to be adjusting well and even thriving in our new home. Ellie's talking more and more, with "Beau-Beau" (my parents' dog) being one of her favorite new words. Bethany will be starting in her new preschool program in a few days, and we're all excited about everything she'll be able to do there. The program is similar to the one she's been in through the Royal Oak schools, with the added benefits of one-on-one speech therapy and art, music and gym classes. They'll even be doing a four week swim class!

The adjustment to being back under my parents' roof hasn't been as hard as I thought it might be. The girls and I have spent a lot of time here over the past couple of years, often spending nights when Tim was on the road. So it feels very comfortable for all of us already. All eight of us (my parents, grandma, and the five of us) are having a good time and don't seem to be driving each other crazy — not yet, at least!

Thanks for your prayers as we continue to adjust to life in a small town (everything closes by 9:00!), and as we get down to the work of raising support full time.

In Christ,

Tim and Lisa

P.S. Check out our new web page — www.cockingfamily.com!