

The Brushstroke

Your missionary prayer letter from Portrait

March 2008

Dear Friends,

A little over a year ago we believed God was leading us to sell our home in Nashville and move to Florida where we were to work at a church there. We took our family through the enormous transition of an out of state move and adjustment to a new home, church and job, but within six months things fell apart in Florida and we found ourselves moving again, this time to Oregon. We thought moving to Florida was a challenge, but moving across the United States so soon after a big move was very traumatic ... to our furniture, and to our egos. How could this happen, and how could we have possibly missed "God's will for our lives"?

As I've pondered this question over the last months I am convinced that somehow all this **was** part of God's plan for us, in spite of the difficulties... maybe even because of them. Though we may never get the answers to all of our why's, we can trust God anyway, because we know He is faithful and good.

Thank you to those of you who continued to pray for us in spite of not knowing what was happening. Our kids are adjusting well to the changes, and our family is beginning to feel more settled in our new home. We are living in Hood River, about 50 miles east of Portland, where we're serving part-time as worship leaders at Shepherd of the Valley Bible Church. This church is one we had sung at many times over the years of our traveling ministry, so many of the people already knew us. For now we are living in a rental house just a mile from the church. We are also continuing our work with Greater Europe Mission; in fact just last month Pete was able to help represent GEM at Multnomah Bible Institute's global missions conference. After a few delays due to our moves, Pete has resumed his studies toward a Masters Degree in counseling.

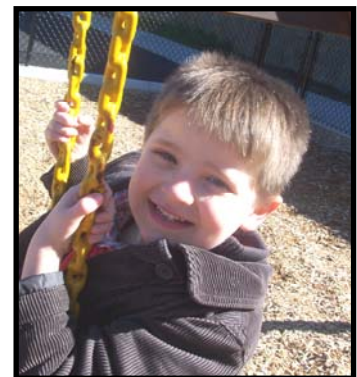
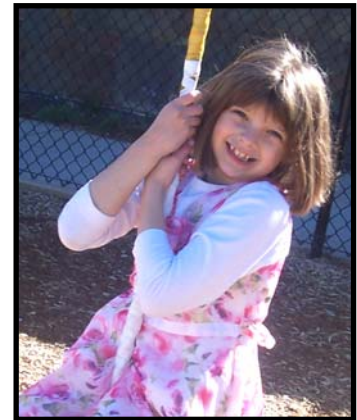
Alaska is seven and in second grade at Horizon Christian School. She's an excellent reader, and loves to draw, do craft projects and learn about horses. Simon is five and loves to play computer learning games and practice writing his ABCs. Skye is two and saying new words every day, and likes to help Mommy 'wash the dishes' and rearrange the house. We are grateful that our children are happy and outgoing.

Living in a small town is a big adjustment for our family. We're learning how to plan our shopping trips and what kinds of things to do here in Hood River when we start to feel restless. Being new to an area is often lonely, but we are all beginning to form friendships, which helps us feel more at home.

You can check out our church's website at www.svbc-hr.org.

Much love and Easter blessings,

Pete & Tina Matteson



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