

CHRISTMAS - 2018

DEREK AND KRISTIN DEARTH NEWSLETTER

"FEAR NOT, FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE." LUKE 2:10, ESV

Merry Christmas! As we approach the end of our first full year back in the States, I am reminded that we can never predict how a year will turn out. **For the most part, the events that we had planned for 2018 went on as scheduled, but there were some pretty interesting surprises along the way, including plenty of opportunities to trust God!** But we are so grateful for the hope that God's plans for our future are good and loving, even if they are sometimes shocking.

One year ago, we ended our newsletter with the phrase, "Have bag, will travel." And, oh, did we travel! **We visited 10 US states and 9 countries by car, van, bus, train, wagon, boat, gondola, and plane.** Almost all of that travel was related to our new roles within ACTION, as we visited current ACTION fields and missionaries, attended mission conferences, explored new opportunities for ministry, and more. Charlie was very sad to not take part in most of that travel. He has quite the itch to fly somewhere (English-speaking preferred), so if you know of anything...!

Derek continues to settle into his role as one of the Associate Directors, with an emphasis on Strategic Planning, at our Seattle-based ACTION office. Thankfully, working remotely from Minneapolis seems to be working well, but it does contribute to the travel time. He has made 6 trips to Seattle and has (...cont. on pg. 2)



KRISTIN BACK IN ZAMBIA,
AUGUST 2018



DEREK AND THE
BETHLEHEM TEAM VISITING
ACTION CUBA MINISTRIES,
OCTOBER 2018



DEREK AND KYLE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, NOVEMBER
2018

spent almost 40 days connecting with the staff there, attending Board meetings, serving as the Officer in Charge, spearheading a new giving page on ACTION's website, and offering insight into the direction of ACTION. His field experience in Zambia has been valuable in all of these areas.

You may remember that Derek also took a trip with some co-workers to Ecuador and Costa Rica early this year to spend some time with ACTION missionaries there. And then in the summer, we all geared up for my return, 2-week trip to Zambia with our primary sending church in MN. **Our goal was to survive Mommy being gone that long. But God did much more than that!** Derek, Charlie, and Sam ate well, made fun memories, and stayed healthy. And our team in Zambia taught home-based care techniques to 140 people, prayed for others, donated medical supplies, made home-visits, saw Victoria Falls, and more.

It was so special to see the team in Zambia that Derek and I worked with for over 6 years and to practically support some of the people and ministries that are dear to us. I also had the unique opportunity to speak at our home care workshops. During the days, I taught a session on Nutrition & Hydration, and in the evenings, I was supposed to give a word of encouragement. I used the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet to encourage the caregivers to follow in Christ's example of love - to joyfully humble themselves as they do shameful tasks, like give bed baths or assist with sanitation or clean up bodily fluids - so that all people will know that they are Christ's disciples. God seemed to bless our team's efforts in Zambia, and it was great to go back in that role. Thank you to all of you who prayed and gave to make that happen!!

"FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE." ISAIAH 9:6, ESV



In the weeks after my return, we got Charlie all ready for his second year at Hand in Hand Christian Montessori School. He started as an official Kindergartener and has been making great progress in phonics, reading,

writing, and math, which is amazing considering the time he devotes to managing his social schedule! But it is exciting to see him thrive in such a happy, supportive environment. **In June, Charlie turned 6, and he continues to impress us with his quick wit, expansive vocabulary, emotional sensitivity toward those around him, and ability to make friends anywhere and everywhere.**

In **October**, Derek, my dad, and some people from our church went to **Cuba** for one week to visit current ACTION ministries and workers and for our church to see how they might be able to get involved more in the future there. **It was really inspiring to**

see the Church thriving within the challenges it faces in Cuba and to see the very fruitful ministry of ACTION Cuba!

Sam celebrated his 4th birthday this Fall after Derek returned from Cuba. As much as Sam loves being "the baby," he is getting more excited about growing up and becoming "a big boy." But he certainly still knows how to work the system to his benefit! **Sam is a good peace-maker, has quite a sense of rhythm and groove, often makes us laugh with his dramatics, and lightens the home with his sweet, sincere personality.**





Charlie Quotes:

- “If a person doesn't have a belly button, it means they came from Jesus.”
- “I'm pretty sure Nana gives me more mayonnaise than you. She is the BEST!”
- “I saw a blue house back there. That color of blue really inspired me.”
- “I don't want to have a sister, because all girls are a mystery.”
- “Why did you throw Sam's picture away?! That was really mean. If I was a parent, I would NEVER do that.”
- “I don't care about if germs get me sick. But the thing I do care about is that I stay healthy.”
- “Mommy, I like when you wear your boots! You really look like a BIG woman!”
- “I'm just going to sit down and read my Bible. Except, I don't know how to read, so I'm just going to sit here and, ya know... whatever.”

Pictures, clockwise from top middle: Derek in Cuba; Derek & Kyle in Quito, Ecuador; Seattle skyline; Kristin & friend on a home visit in Zambia; road trip with Charlie & Sam; Surprise!; Derek & Kyle speaking at a UK church; Kristin teaching in Zambia.

Sam Quotes:

- “Will the delivery man deliver the baby to our house?”
- “About this rainy day, I want it to stop.”
- Derek: “What should we name the baby girl?” Sam: “A boy.”
- “I saw a man that was being VERY naughty. He was being very naughty to the kingdom. He did not look for cars. He just went on the road when cars were crossing.”
- “Me and Charlie don't like baby girls. We only like baby boys.”
- “Good morning, Baby Sister! I love you. I hope you slept well.”



In November, Derek traveled internationally again with Kyle (the other Associate Director at ACTION USA) and visited the **ACTION UK** office to connect more with the staff and gain a better understanding of how the USA office can help and be supportive. From there, Derek and Kyle traveled to the **Middle East** to explore, through friends and connections in the region, how ACTION might get more involved. This combined trip went really well, and we praise God for giving insight into ministry options among refugee populations and unreached people groups!

While we expected the busy travel schedule this year, it has been a learning curve for us. But we are so thankful for a supportive family and church that have sustained us in many ways - watching kids, having play dates, praying, giving grace and advice, and being present. We do love seeing new places and learning from the new experiences, and we seem to be

settling into a good rhythm of living life amidst the travel.

Something we did not expect at all this year is an addition to our family! "Baby Sister" is expected to make her arrival around March 9. Charlie and Sam would have loved an all-boys team, but they are growing with sweet affection for their baby sister every day and make sure to give her lots of kisses and hugs and wish her sweet dreams at night.

As we close out 2018 and look forward to 2019, we are hopeful and confident that God will continue to give us all that we need...in both the expected and the surprises! Thank you for all of your prayers and support this year, and may your Christmas be filled with hope and joy as well!

*Derek, Kristin, Charlie, Sam,
& "Bonus Baby" Girl Dearth*

Email/Phone - derek.dearth@actionintl.org or derekkristin@me.com Skype: dereksdearth or 612-284-5554
Our Website/Blog - dearthodelight.com
Online Donations - actioninternational.org/dearth
Social Media - Facebook: Derek Dearth, Kristin Dearth. Instagram: derekkristin2006. Twitter: dearth_derek
All gifts are used as designated and receipted for tax purposes.
ACTION USA • PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 • Tel. 425-775-4800 • info@actionusa.org;
ACTION Canada • 3015A 21 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1 • Tel. 403-204-1421 • info@actioncanada.org;
ACTION United Kingdom • PO Box 144, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 5WE • Tel. 011-151-630-2451 • info@actionuk.org • UK Registered Charity 1058661

ACTION 