

September 1984

Dear Friends and Family,

We have much to tell you but feel that Grace's prayer will best describe the events of the past months.

KYLE DAVID--BORN AUG. 23 - 8 lbs., 14 oz. -- 20 in. First American born in Yerga Alem Hospital.

"Dear Lord, As I reflect back on this past month, my heart overflows with thanksgiving to you for all you've done. I am overwhelmed at the way you take care of me and all the details in my life. Lord, I was afraid to have a baby out here in Ethiopia and didn't know what kind of care I or the baby would get. Each of our other three births were so special and exciting as you surrounded me with friends and loved ones and they took place in nice clean hospitals with good Doctors and nurses. Well, to be honest Lord, I didn't know how You could match what You'd done in the past. First of all I hated to go to Yerga Alem Hospital in labor and have all those sick people sitting crowded around outside the hospital staring at me since I was a foreigner. But You took care of that when You planned for us to arrive at 10 p.m. when everyone had gone home and then for me not to have the baby till the following night at 8:27 p.m.. Thank You for looking after that small detail. It meant so much.

And Lord when Mom wrote and said she would come out, I couldn't believe it. I hadn't even asked her because I thought it would be too much money. But you gave her the idea without my help. Then she was here for five weeks and we had the neatest time. She helped us get all organized and settled in our home in Chaffee. But I wasn't having the baby!- And there were times I wondered if You had failed me and weren't going to let Mom-see our new baby after all. But sure enough, like always, 2 days before she was to leave we had Kyle and she got to see him in Yerga Alem on her way up to Addis where she was to catch the plane,. Thank You for letting Mom share this joy Lord.

Lord, when Kyle finally did arrive, it scared me to see him so blue. I was so thankful for the good mid-wife, Anna, from Denmark and Dr. Helge from Norway who were so quick to cut the cord that had been wrapped twice around his neck. And then when I began to hemorrhage

I was so grateful that You had provided a hospital with emergency equipment and medicine available. Thank You too for Dr. Helge's wife, that though they'd never known me before, they opened their home and took care of me as if I had been their friend for years. I can't believe I only had to spend 2-1/2 hours in the hospital!

Then Lord, while You had given us a new son, in a sense You were taking our oldest away for a while. And I couldn't bear to send him up to school without going up with him. Thank You that even though it had only been 9 days since Kyle was born, you prompted me to go to Addis with the family. And then when 2 days later, I hemorrhaged again, I knew why You'd wanted me to come. To think that I would've been at Yerga Chaffee by myself without any transportation and the hospital 1-1/2 hours away! Lord, certainly what Ps. 139:16 says is true afresh, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." It was great to have been instead at S.I.M. Headquarters in Addis and be able to quickly summon our nurse who immediately put me on an I.V. and then Lord, when a short time later she came in with a doctor who had arrived in Ethiopia only 2 days before from England, and would be here for only 2 weeks, I was overwhelmed again at the quality of your care. It was easier - not easy -but easier to be able to go to another hospital for a D&C knowing that a good Doctor was doing it.

It was so hard to leave Drew Lord. He's only 6 years old! Being 7-1/2 hours away is a long ways away. I knew it was what you wanted and I had tried to prepare for it for so long, but when the time came, I couldn't make my heart realize it was best. Thank You for Drew's personality, that he loves people. He didn't seem to struggle at all like I did. Thank You too for giving him such a neat family to live with. It's amazing that Bill went to school with Harold here in Ethiopia and that I knew Becky when we were kids

(her parents are with the same Mission board as mine). And now they will be Drew's "Dad and Mom" for the school year. John 10:4 "He goes before them" is so true Lord. We continue to see it more and more.

As we finally returned to Yerga Chaffee, we were thrilled with answered prayer. As we were greeted at the gate by the three church leaders who for 3 months have been "kept". To see them free was incredible and there was much cause for hugging them and praising You.

This month I can sing with new meaning, "Great is Thy faithfulness oh God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with Thee. All I have needed, Thy hand has provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me."

Resting in Thy faithfulness,

Grace

Drew's address is: Bingham Academy Box 127 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia