

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## 2015 - A Year of Transition (although, when has our life in Zambia not been in transition?!)

Merry Christmas from a very hot Zambia! Here we are, racing to the end of another year. And this year has been unlike any other - a role change for Derek; me acclimating to life with two growing, BUSY boys; Charlie growing by leaps and bounds in his physical, verbal, mental, verbal, spiritual, and did I mention verbal? development; and Sam learning all about the crazy world around him (especially the red-headed blur). With all the change and growth, we have experienced a fair amount of disappointment and exhaustion along with the joys and triumphs.

Our year began with one of my least favorite aspects of missionary life - goodbyes. We finished our home assignment and headed back to Zambia to begin our third term. Having said so many difficult goodbyes over the years, I can say for myself that it does get easier. But not much.

Upon returning to Zambia, Derek was officially installed as ACTION Zambia's new Country Director. We had a sweet time of fellowship and prayer that our team had planned for us, including the presence of ACTION's International Director, all of our fellow missionaries and national staff, and our Board of Trustees. Since that time and throughout this year, I have had the privilege of seeing Derek exercise his gifts in new ways as the Director. One thing he has learned about himself is that he loves meetings! His sharp mind suits him well for deliberations and discussion, and he was happy to be a part of the International Council meetings in Canada as well as to meet with the Board of Trustees here.

Unfortunately, as a missionary, goodbyes follow us to whichever country we are in. And, in April, some good friends and teammates of ours returned to the States permanently. But right on their heels, a new family joined our team. There was a lot of transition for us and our team during the first half of the year, and we were glad for a break in July to see family in the



*"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10, ESV*



ETA (CROSS PROJECT TEACHER)  
AND SAM - JANUARY



CHARLIE SHARED HIS SPECIAL  
THINGS WITH SAM - MARCH



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY - MAY

States, since we were already in Canada for the all-ACTION meetings and 40th anniversary celebration. Within five weeks, we managed (with a three year old and an eight month old) to travel 24,676 miles by plane plus some by car in a total of five countries and four states. And Sam has been making us pay ever since! In retrospect, we have realized that it was quite a bit to put our kids through. We will look back and laugh...one day!

We knew that the last half of this year would be busy, but we did not anticipate the exhaustion that would accompany the busyness. Some of it was self-inflicted, and the rest was totally God's hand of providence. For example, I decided to take another online class toward my Bachelors of Science in Nursing through the University of Wisconsin - self-inflicted. There were unusual amounts of scary sickness in Derek, Charlie, and Sam - providence. We have two energetic, attention-seeking mini wrestlers - self-inflicted. Derek got robbed (but was not harmed!) - providence. All of Zambia is under 8-hr/day power outages for the foreseeable future - providence. And all of this comes during the hottest months of the year. Needless to say, we have experienced a certain darkness that we have not known before. But I love the verses in 2 Corinthians 4 that summarize this time, especially as we draw near to Christmas. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, ESV. The birth of Jesus comes like an explosion of light punching a hole in the darkness around us. Praise God for such a hope in times of trouble!

May this glorious light shine brightly in your hearts this Christmas!

**With much thankfulness, we wish you all a very joy-filled Christmas!**

*Derek, Kristin, Charlie & Sam Dearth*

### Charlie Chatterbox Quotes

**And now, the moment you have all been waiting for - quotes from Mr. Verbal (AKA Charlie Chatterbox):**

Standing next to me while I was going to the bathroom, Charlie said, "Don't worry, Momma. I'm right here with you."

As he looked at a picture of Jesus on the cross in his children's Bible, he happily exclaimed, "Jesus has a little diaper on, just like Charlie!"

When he was sick with a 102.7 fever, he said, "The blood is making the pain so hot."

One of his first compliments was, "Wow, Momma, what a beautiful candy cane shirt you have on! It's kind of like a snowy mountain." (This would be the dress I am wearing in our family photo - right).

We were (admittedly) frustrated with him for getting into something he shouldn't have, and he said, "You don't be mad at me. You just talk to me - about Jesus."

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ACTION INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
MEETINGS IN CANADA - JULY



SOME OF OUR AZ TEAM AFTER A  
STAFF MEETING - SEPTEMBER



CROSS PROJECT CLASS IN  
GEORGE COMPOUND - OCTOBER



DECEMBER 2015

**ACTION**  
Action International Ministries Zambia