

## 2<sup>ND</sup> EPISTLE FROM PETER TO THE CHURCH IN THE PEAK

**Greetings, brothers and sisters! Love and blessings of God to you all!**

It has been great to hear from some of you, and catch up with news via the new-look newsletter (thanks Andy!) It is hard to believe that 12 months ago, Katherine was setting up house in New Zealand, and I was packing up house during my last few weeks in Buxton! We miss you all so much, and often wonder if we should have stayed in Buxton to be closer to our dear friends. But we are enjoying life in Tauranga, and are feeling settled in all we are involved in here.



We had some issues earlier with the removal company, having to chase them up about a box of our stuff that went missing. We had to make an insurance claim in the end, which was a bit less than the value of the missing items once they subtracted the excess, but it was good to finally reach a settlement. The payment is now our budget for some decoration, as the missing box was mostly decorative stuff. (We are really glad there wasn't anything in there like wedding photos!) I could live with any décor, but Katherine is happy to be finally making our house our own home.

There's not a lot to do inside, but we've got some plans for landscaping the rest of the section. We were blessed with a live-in gardener when Mum came to stay in February. She removed 6 rose bushes while she was here, then told us, "Don't worry, there's still 28 more!" I would prefer a more infant-friendly, and self-maintaining garden though. Almost tempted to pull everything up and put in rocks, but having a change of heart with spring in the air. The pear tree is in full blossom, and the figs are growing before our eyes!

You will be pleased to know we are all well. Katherine is keeping busy while I am at work. The mothers from our ante-natal class started a netball team which just won their first season last week! They also get together for coffee every couple of weeks. She also goes to a craft morning each week through our church, and is currently sewing a cloth activity book for Evelyn. She met a small group of young mothers from another church, and they also meet for coffee most Fridays, and just recently the husbands have started a bible-study group every other week, which I have been enjoying participating in. I sometimes think I have too many hours at work, and not enough to spend with my family, but really I can't complain with having a full weekday off every fortnight!

We do have one prayer request for Evelyn... Last month the doctor heard a heart murmur, which was still present when he listened again last week. It is most likely a condition which is not uncommon at her age, and which she will eventually grow out of, but he is still referring us to a

specialist just to be sure. We would greatly appreciate prayer that the specialist will confirm that there is nothing to be worried about.

She is otherwise very happy and healthy, and keeping mummy and daddy on our toes with her new found mobility! At 8 months, she has 4 teeth, will try to eat anything she finds, and will be properly crawling any day now. (She has been "commando crawling" for about a month already.) Every day is a new adventure, and today she learned how to hide herself under her blanket, and found it hilarious playing peek-a-boo with mummy! As always, there are photos being added to our facebook pages every so often, and I hope to get a more recent video up on youtube soon. For those of you who still have not yet discovered how easy it is to set up a facebook account, here is the external link to my most recent photo album...

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=101766&id=506960635&l=284df6164e>

Pharmacy is busy, as always. We managed to survive swine flu during the winter, and now hay fever season is almost in full swing. I am enjoying working there, as they are a good bunch to work with. Our main supplier held a wholesalers conference in Taupo last month, and the boss shouted Katherine and I a room at the conference venue. We drove the long way to Taupo, via Hamilton, and dropped Evelyn off with Katherine's parents for her first night without us. It was great to have a night of freedom, but we still worried every so often. When we got back to Hamilton the next day though, it seemed Evelyn didn't even realise we hadn't been there! Oh well, at least we have confidence to know we can leave her again if we need to.

We are really immersing ourselves in Lifezone now. We are on the worship team two Sundays each month, and Katherine is a worship leader for at least one of those two. (Charlie, everyone asks after you, and Shayne is wondering when you will be coming back, as we are still praying for a drummer for the team!) We have a good cell-group, mostly young parents, and some other 20-somethings. Last month we were looking at spiritual gifts, which we all found really encouraging. This month we are going through a more formal study on an overview of The Word of God, which is providing a lot of material for discussion.

Two weeks ago was Father's Day, and I had an awesome time! The official church meeting was moved to the evening, and in the morning the Lifezone building was opened up to bring friends and family along for a fun day. There were cars on display, sports on big screens, good coffee, all-day-breakfasts, all sorts of blokey hobbies on display, and a power-pulling competition. We got a lot of really positive feedback from the non-Christian visitors who were there. I think they were probably worried they were going to be preached to, but they got to see what a friendly, non-threatening bunch we really are!

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, there is going to be a special dedication service for us, and 2 other couples, each with their first child. Of course Evelyn, Lucy and Noah are going to look gorgeous dressed in their "christening gowns," but the elders really want to make it a special time for the parents, to provide an opportunity for them as a church to pray over us.

Hoping you are all keeping well. Looking forward to hearing from you again soon, either directly, or through the next church newsletter.

Love to you all,

*Peter, Katherine and Evelyn.*