

Christmas 2011

Lines from Laura

Me & Mom



With Kathy Troccoli



For the first time in years, Mom and I got to attend a women's

conference in April, "Among Friends" with singer and author Kathy Troccoli (she has been a favorite artist for years). It was wonderful!

The year in statistics:

Blizzard 2011: #10 snowfall total in Milwaukee history (most I've ever seen in 12 years here)

Students graduated: 69

New Students: 87

Hours of one-on-one meetings/trainings with candidates and missionaries: 80+

Miles travelled: 6000+ by air, too many to count by car!



Me (maid of honor), Nathan, LaShani, and best man Asa at the wedding



Merry Christmas from my home to yours!

It can be such a challenge to figure out how to sum up a year in a single page...I think I'd have to call this a year of adjustments. Not that adjustments are necessarily a bad thing! The past year has been one of some health challenges, some family excitement, and a morphing job description. Overall, I look back over the last year and marvel at the grace of God. Life can be such a challenge,

(and it usually is), but my God is a faithful God Who is always there every step of the way. He is a God of hope, and since He is always with me I am never without hope. Through the joys and pains, laughter and tears, I am never hopeless. This Christmas and coming year my prayer for you is that you may experience this God of hope in a fresh, new way. Merry Christmas!

Joy & Tears, Adjustments & Change

In case you haven't heard, a big event in our family was the engagement and subsequent wedding of my brother Nathan to my new sister-in-law LaShani. It's amazing how something like a wedding can bring intense joy and tears at the same time! I'm so happy for them though. They are now living in an apartment a couple blocks from the school, so I get to see them regularly. LaShani is working on finishing her degree here at New Tribes, and Nathan is working full-time at Cousins' Subs and also working his way into a youth pastorate at a local church. It's been such a welcome change to have family around again! It does mean adjustments for all of us though, both for the three of us in Wisconsin and for my parents who now have no kids close by; we all covet your prayers.

hours a week as receptionist, and spending the rest of my time serving as Administrative Assistant to the school's leadership, handling school promotions and media, helping fellow missionaries with support raising / communications / media, and travelling occasionally with our mission's Development Team to do media and communications training for our missionaries and candidates. Our next trip is coming up soon, headed to Ontario for a week in January. It's a job description that gives me quite a bit of variety in my life...it's never dull! I really do enjoy it though, and it's amazing to see how God is bringing together different skills and experience I have to allow me to minister effectively.

I'm still plugging away at my Master's degree, and I'm really hoping that in the next year I'll make some more marked progress on it!

We've gone through some restructuring of jobs over the past year at the school, and my exact job description has been fluxing with the changes. At present, I'm working a few



Pepper turned twelve this year, but she's still going strong! As the vet put it, I've got the fountain of youth with this dog. The way I figure it, God landed her in my lap, so He can keep her going too!



One highlight of my year was a ten day visit with my Bible School roommate, Lisa, and her family in Washington State.

Health Corner

After last year's diagnosis of Chronic Fatigue, this year has been one of figuring out my limits and how to best manage life. I had a bout in late spring with a recurring infection, and ended up fighting a kidney infection all through June. July was busy with the wedding, and then August was straight into school year preparations. September is always insanely busy with the new semester, and by the end of the month I realized how much we needed to make some changes to keep me functioning normally.

I'm continually grateful for the wonderful doctors I have here. I was able to go to the different specialists and explain the problems I was having with the current treatments and they were more than willing to work with me to find a new plan that works. The past couple months have been ones of trial and error as we figure out what gives me the best re-

sults with the fewest side effects, but I'm greatly encouraged with where things are now. I'm enjoying energy levels that I haven't had for the last year, and I'm finally settling into what my limits are and finding ways to work within them.

As always, God has been faithful through it all. I'm so glad He is a God that can handle our ups and downs, that He's big enough to handle our anger, questions, and fears, ever willing to just hold us until we are spent and ready to let Him work. It's been amazing to see how God is able to use what I've dealt with physically to encourage others who are just starting the process. I know God has a plan even if I never see it, but it's such a privilege to get a little glimpse into the fact that part of why I go through these things is to be able to more effectively help others.

Life Outside the Bubble

We jokingly refer to life here at the school as our bubble...we live, work, and eat at the same place, and sometimes it feels like we live in a bubble. It's always an exciting thing when we are able to find life outside the bubble!

2011 has brought some exciting developments for my life outside the bubble, especially through my church. Late last year through a series of "God circumstances" I ended up helping write lessons for a curriculum series that was in development at the church. That blossomed into further writing opportunities as well as some chances to do large group speaking. I got the chance in March to be part of a Passover experience speaking team that presented to several hundred women over two days. During the summer and on into the fall I've been part of a team writing a small group curriculum called Faith Foundations; our church is using the books for people interested in Christianity or those early in their faith. For the first book in the series one of the chapters I wrote was the one presenting the Gospel. The first weekend in December I got to hear testimony from

three people who have accepted Christ as Savior through this series, and I've heard of more since. About 50 people took the first section of the series, and they start book two in January. I got to write three chapters for book two, including the one on Grace. I spend so much of my ministry life on the discipleship side of the Great Commission that I've often struggled with finding my place in the evangelism side. Through this project, I feel like I'm finally finding where the gifts God has given me fit in the big picture of evangelism. I must say, I felt like a proud mamma listening to these new believers give testimony of their faith. I've also made some great new friendships through this journey, and it's been an incredible blessing.

This year my small group girls that I've been with for three years are in their finally elementary year. I can't believe they're fifth grade already! It's a bittersweet feeling as I look at how much they've grown in their faith these last years. It's such a privilege to be a part of it. Pray for wisdom as I consider what God would have me to do with this area next year.

Laura Meyers
915 N. Hartwell Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186
Laura_meyers@ntm.org
www.ntm.org/laura_meyers
262-227-7340

