

# The *Olsen Outlook* August 2007

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## HAS IT REALLY BEEN A YEAR?!

Monday was Michael's birthday and we marvel at all that has transpired since he was born...

"Sons are a heritage  
from the LORD,  
children  
a reward from him" (Psalm 127:3)



We truly are blessed to have Emily, Ryan and Michael in our lives. Parenthood is a weighty responsibility, but such a joy and a privilege. Michael has taken his first few steps in the past couple of weeks and has developed quite a little personality.

Once again, we stand in awe of our Heavenly Father's design for human development and growth. For each of our children, we trust Him for that process to include spiritual growth and development. Though we are puzzled at times, He is faithful and always gives us wisdom to help them take the next little step, or just to use those teachable moments of the quizzical child to help them see a little more of who He is and what His ways are like.

Much has transpired since we wrote of our Turkish friends' visit in June--more than we can possible convey with this letter. "Oscar" and his family were overwhelmed by the love they saw and how followers of Jesus went out of their way to help them. Oscar writes:



"Almost two months went over after returning. We missed you so much. Every day we all talk about our visit, you and the nice days spent with you. Every moment while we're there is really unforgettable. We thank you so much for every thing you did. We hope you can come to Turkey in a very soon time. If you see Shirley and Math, please tell them hello from us. We also loved them so much. We also invite them to Turkey."

Matt was able to share quite a bit with Oscar and we had some good conversations with them, too. Kurt shared his testimony.

Oscar asked for prayer for Heidi as she returns to teaching after a year at home with Estelle, and for trustworthy childcare for Estelle (they're still searching). Also, his promotion to a position in Istanbul is on hold, but they are happy about this as they don't want to move.

Since Oscar and family left, we've scurried to Missouri and Minnesota and back, with good times of connecting with ministry partners and supporting churches in each location. We're glad to settle into the school year routine and stay put for a while! Ryan started kindergarten last week and is doing well. Emily loves 3rd grade, too.

Grandma Nancy was here to celebrate Michael's birthday and we got acquainted with her longtime friend, Clayton. Clayton and my mom have been talking about getting married, and that is why she hasn't made a move to Nebraska. His wife died early last year and they have discovered that God had the two couples meet in Germany 50 years ago so that these two could be of great comfort to one another at this time in their lives. They started seeing each other in October.