

# October 2011

Dear Friends:

We pray that this update letter finds you well!

It's hard to believe that next month we'll have been in Missoula for six months! The time has flown by. The family is doing well. The boys are settling into their school. They are up and dressed in the morning before I go and get them. I'm sure this will change in the future! Katie is handling the transition well. But she is missing "her boys." James is growing leaps and bounds. He's already ready to walk. His body just needs to catch up. Soon enough I'm sure that he'll be walking and trying to keep up. He may even beat Katie's record of walking at 9 months.

Liz is doing well. The transition to four kids is something that we're both adjusting to. So far it has been not as big as the transition from two to three. Liz has been getting involved with some other local mums networks and been making friends through those. She's been getting out with Katie and exploring Missoula. We all went last Saturday to a birthday party at the Children's Museum here in Missoula. The kids really enjoyed it. We didn't think we'd be able to get them out of there!

We did want to thank you for your prayers for us. They are truly welcomed and warmly received. We have been feeling rather lonely lately. We really are working in a mission field. Depending on who you talk to, the Missoula Valley is 80%-85% unchurched, dechurched or ambivalent about church. It's similar to working amongst an unreached people group or an unreached nation. (With obvious exceptions of course!) It's very similar to being back in Youth With a Mission. God in someways has brought us full circle.

In that vein, we are hoping to raise support for this mission work we are doing. Along side a job (which I'm hoping to get) we'll need to raise \$1500.00 per month to pay our bills. That works out to 40 sponsors each supporting us with \$37.50 per month. (Personally, I find this difficult to ask) However, if you would be willing to covenant with us to monthly support it would be greatly appreciated. If you can only make a one time donation that would be appreciated as well. Anything that you can give is welcome. (As of now, we are unable to provide a tax receipt. But that will change once the community is up and running.) Please don't feel that you have to give. What we we desire most is your prayers! Please keep praying for us as we continue on the journey God is leading us on.

I'm doing okay. Starting the community from scratch is quite a task. I'm learning new things every day. Getting to know people is easier some days than others. Good thing I'm not in charge of building this community! May God build his church! I'm still looking for a job. It has been more difficult than I thought, particular to find a job that pays well enough. We've started the process of getting a logo and website up and running. Keep your eyes open for the website ([stcolumbamissoula.org](http://stcolumbamissoula.org)). We'll let you know when it's up and running! (The link for the vision can be found [here](#). That is if you haven't read it already!)

Please keep us in your prayers as we journey forward to the community God is starting here in Missoula!

Peace to you all,  
The Read-Smiths