



Incredible Provision

"From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16



Dear Friends and Family,

It is with great excitement and joy that we announce the birth of our beautiful daughter, Monica Amanda Keller. After 13 hours of coaxing and convincing, Ashley persuaded the stork to drop by at 4:10pm on Friday, April 4th.

**"For You created my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother's
womb. I praise You because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made; Your
works are wonderful, I know that full
well." Psalm 139:13-14**

Our birth experience was exceptionally blessed. Because we have the usual missionary health insurance (the Lord provides), our goal was the economical option: a natural birth- no epidural. Initially, Ashley was not sure she would be able to do this, but she decided to give it her best. We were told that

preparation is the secret to a successful natural birth, so we spent many hours praying, reading, and talking to experienced parents (not to mention taking those inspiring birth classes). The 40th week finally arrived and after several days of spicy foods, bumpy car rides, and hot baths, Ashley gave in to despair and, to console herself, consumed a rather large amount of Breyers mint chip... which turned out to be just enough motivation for little Monica, who promptly sought an escape route away from Mommy's cold, ice cream filled tummy.

**It's hard to believe
that the Lord has
entrusted us with
such a treasure.
May He be gracious
in providing the
wisdom to raise her
in His ways!**



On the morning of the 4th Ashley woke me with her disconcerting announcement, "I think we will be going to the hospital today." I was suddenly very wide awake. I had to stop and consider: was I ready for this? Um... ready or not!! Since she was still in the early stages of labor, we decided to keep a breakfast date with Ashley's parents before checking into the hospital. My stepmom, Mary Jo, is a charge nurse at Northwest Hospital's Women's Center, so we called her to tell her we were coming in for a "visit". She was able to organize a natural birth friendly room for us, complete with a jacuzzi tub! After another five hours of labor in the hospital, Monica made her debut into the outside world, landing at the very manageable weight of 6lb 10oz. By the grace of God, Ashley was able to give birth naturally.



Daddy's girl at 6 weeks



**"Please pray for my Uncle Aaron, serving
with the Marines overseas." -Monica**

Looking back over the pregnancy, birth, and following weeks, we have so much to thank God for. Ashley and Monica maintained excellent health throughout the entire pregnancy, across many African miles (some of them in Malaria zones) and on four trans-Atlantic flights. The birth went very well (and quickly!), described as "nearly perfect" by the presiding nurse, who was an incredible blessing herself! Our medical expenses were covered, and we received needed baby items from thoughtful friends. Good friends have made it possible for us to stay in a house in the Phoenix area for awhile, and it has been comfortably furnished by raiding some very obliging garages. We are also grateful that we were able to share this experience with our family. Monica is the first grandchild on both sides! My brother, Aaron, was even able to take his leave from the Marines and meet his first niece. Most of all, we are thankful for a

beautiful, healthy little girl who has brought such a sense of joy and fulfillment to our lives, we can hardly believe we ever lived without her! Thank you for your continued prayers- we need them now more than ever as we learn to be godly parents!

On the Road Again



Class is in session at this typical African “schoolroom”.

I’m currently revising a Teacher Training Manual which I will be using and distributing on my coming trip to Zambia and, God willing, Sudan. Teacher training is desperately needed in Africa, especially training that is Christ-centered and applicable to the African context. While many countries have taken visible steps toward making education more readily available to their people, the average level of teacher training is deplorable. Often, a teacher will be a recent graduate from the school they are assigned to, have less than one year of training, and be equipped with literally nothing but a hut and a few log benches. With so little training and so few materials, they lack the ability and experience to develop both rudimentary skills in the very young children, and reasoning skills in the older students. Teachers are usually forced to try to adapt a Western or Asian curriculum to an African “classroom”: no chalkboard, no paper, often no building, and, worst of all, precious few books. To compound the problem, the textbooks they do have are thoroughly humanistic, denying the truth of basic Biblical principles.

On my last trip to Zambia, I visited a rural village in the Eastern Province of Zambia. There a young woman was engaged in teaching about thirty children of all ages and levels. As she had very few resources and virtually no funding from the government, she was unable to provide textbooks or paper for her students. The only teaching aids she had were a few hand-drawn pictures, done with crayons, of the continents, Zambia, and the alphabet letters. Her students are blessed to have such a motivated and creative teacher, a rare find in rural Africa. My goal is to give teachers the training they need to use available materials to teach their students in a creative, engaging, and, most importantly, Christ-centered way. One of the primary tools I use is a Teacher Training Manual, developed by my friend, Rob McCafferty. I am in the process of revising it with the help of educators from both the US and Africa.

The teacher training seminars are excellent opportunities for both discipleship and evangelism as we invite all the local teachers to attend. During these seminars we focus on Christian principles and look at the basic foundations of education. By looking at the Scriptures, we build an understanding of the Christian worldview and its conflict with opposing worldviews. We then show the teachers how to build a Biblical worldview in education, and instill a love of Christ in their students. We also deal with practical topics such as how to run a rural school, how to teach basic principles in a variety of subjects, and how to build rudimentary skills in young students.



Distributing Christian education materials to teachers in Sudan.

While We’re Here

I recently had the opportunity to minister at Green Valley Christian Church in Arizona. They invited me to preach for a few Sundays and teach their Bible studies while their pastor, Ken Reesman, was on vacation. I enjoyed spending time with these friends who have invested so much into our work and our family. They’re also putting together a big rummage sale to help raise funds for our field vehicle.

Please pray for...

- Monica, that she may grow in wisdom and favor with God and man.
- My upcoming field trip: opportunities for ministry, teacher training seminars, and travel.
- Ashley & I, that the Lord will continue to show us how best to serve Him as parents, and for the expansion of His Kingdom.

We give heartfelt thanks to those who are contributing to the memorial fund in honor of our sister, Amy Keller. As this fund grows, we hope to purchase a much-needed field vehicle. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and encouragement. We love hearing from you! Please continue to pray for us as we serve the Lord together as a family.

Pro Rege,
Timothy, Ashley, & Monica Keller

Gifts may be sent to: The Keller Household, c/o ITMI, PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281
To receive a tax receipt, cheques should be made out to “ITMI” and designated to “The Kellers”