

# Josiah & Crystal,

April, 2011

## Abigail, Noah Jay & Silas

Encountering severe persecution, Christians in the early church were tempted to lose their joy, and even blame God as the culprit for their temptations. James emphatically denies this possibility stating: "God... tempts no one" and "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:13, 17). That which we receive from our loving heavenly Father is good and it is perfect, for that is the only type of thing He gives.

Of all people, it was my three year old daughter who reminded me of this. The first time she saw her new little brother, Silas Caleb, she ran over to him, kissed his little deformed toes and exclaimed, "His piggies are perfect mommy, they're perfect!" Well said, my daughter. Formed and intricately woven together in His mother's womb, he is fearfully and wonderfully made. Our Father's works are wonderful; oh that our souls would know that full well.

Our new little life, Silas Caleb Grauman, was born on Resurrection Sunday: 8 lbs. 6.9 oz. & 21 in. He'll need three surgeries sometime in the coming months, one on his cleft palate, one on his feet and knee and one on his little heart. The verse "we do not know what to pray for as we ought" (Ro. 8:26) rings more true than ever these days, as it is so hard to watch our little one hurt, yet more than anything we desire that God would do what is best for him.

Our Father crushed His own Son for His good, and we trust His sovereign hand to bruise ours only exactly as much as he needs. Pain in a little one only reminds me that he is born with inherited guilt, and is like us in desperate need for salvation. So please join us in praying that the Lord would save our children.



*Ministry is flourishing on every front. I continue to preach a couple Sundays a month at different Spanish speaking churches, and we love the opportunity to interact with my students at a personal level. Also, the Institute is growing. We have already received more than twice the amount of applications now in April as we had last year the day classes started in September! Part of the reason is that this September 2011, Lord willing, we will launch our first online program. We have received an enormous amount of interest for this from all over the USA and Latin America. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom to make Gospel centered choices in the days to come as we prepare to launch this new program.*

*Finally, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you for your prayers and support. We continually thank the Lord for His kindness shown to us through you. If, of course, you would consider a monetary gift, we recently opened up the possibility to scholarship students on a recurring basis. It costs just \$42 a month per student.*

[www.grauman.com/josiah](http://www.grauman.com/josiah) — [www.iegcc.org](http://www.iegcc.org) — *For more info. on how to scholarship a student, please contact me via email, thanks!* Also, if you think of it, pray that the person who stole my laptop would read its contents, get saved, and return it!! :)