



Multiple Blessings

Gavin and Carrie '99 (Peterson) Jones welcome quints

Imagine going through more than 200 diapers a week, countless bottles, bibs, outfits, and innumerable cans of formula. This is the reality for DBU alumna Carrie Jones and her husband, Gavin, as they care for their eleven-month-old quintuplets, David, Grace, Will, Marcie, and Seth (in order above).

WYCLIFFE MISSIONARIES

Having one child, Carrie and Gavin hoped to give their now 9-year-old son Isaac a sibling to grow up with: they never dreamed when they prayed for a second child that the Lord would give them five. But they do not doubt the Lord's sovereignty or timing.

Both missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Joneses are commissioned for service in Papua New Guinea where Gavin has served as a helicopter pilot and Carrie as a community health worker. In the winter of 2011, the couple and their son, Isaac, were home in the U.S. on furlough when they found out about the new little ones on the way.

Although they were advised by medical personnel to reduce the number of babies, Carrie and Gavin adamantly refused. Certainly, the family understood that exponentially multiplying their family would bring its challenges, but the Joneses were resolved that the Lord was—and would remain—their strength and sustainer.

Having grown up on the mission

field, Carrie witnessed from her parents, former Wycliffe missionaries Neal and Jane Peterson, how to rely on the Lord in all things. Throughout her life, Carrie has repeatedly seen God provide in impossible situations, including during her undergraduate years at DBU as the Lord provided scholarship money above what she could imagine to allow her to graduate debt free. Knowing the Lord to be faithful in the past, Carrie and Gavin knew that He would be faithful in this new adventure.

Carrie's father, Neal, a DBU adjunct professor for the past 15 years, and mother were some of the first people to hear about the babies. "When Carrie informed us she was pregnant with quintuplets, we were concerned for her health and for the health of the babies," Mr. Peterson recounted. "It caused us to pray a lot and reminded us,

even as tiny as they were, the babies were in the Lord's hands."

The Petersons soon welcomed the growing Jones family into their home in Duncanville, and as the family waited on the arrival of the quints, Carrie's pregnancy was closely monitored. Two weeks before she delivered the babies, the doctors at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas advised Carrie to be admitted to the hospital for closer monitoring.

MULTIPLYING x5

Carrie went into labor at 27 ½ weeks, which was a concern for her health and the health of the babies; however, on August 9, 2012, they welcomed five precious babies: Will Edward (2 lbs. 10 oz.); David Stephen (2 lbs. 6 oz.); Marcie Jane (2 lbs. 0 oz.); Seth Jared (2 lbs. 1 oz.); and Grace Elise (1 lb. 12 oz.).

For months the quintuplets stayed in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as they developed and grew. "Under the excellent care of the doctors, the quints began to survive and thrive," Mr. Peterson recalled. Carrie and Gavin chronicled their journey on a blog which began garnering national attention and more than one million views. Throughout the trials, they continued to seek the Lord and entrust their tiny babies into His capable hands.

Carrie shared on August 27 one of the many trials they encountered, "Please

PAPUA NEW GUINEA:



Gavin and Carrie Jones are missionaries commissioned to Papua New Guinea through the Wycliffe Bible Translators, an organization that has helped complete more than 700 Scripture translations since its foundation. Papua New Guinea is located to the north of Australia and is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. Gavin has served as a helicopter pilot in the area, while Carrie has worked in local community health care.

continue to pray for these babies. I didn't realize until today how precarious their situation still is. The doctor really laid it out there for us. Naïve optimism is gone; we realize the Lord is these babies' only hope for life on earth and for all eternity. He is greater than any challenge and sovereign over each atom of their being. Thank you for joining with us as their prayer warriors."

Another post from Gavin in the first weeks after their births reflected on the song "At Your Feet" by Casting Crowns that played on the radio on the way home from the hospital one night. "This time, I listened to the words and was brought to tears. I could feel the incredible assurance that the Lord has everything – every detail, heartbeat, blood cell, eyelash of my babies, every circumstance in my life and relationships – all perfectly in His more than able hands as I rest at His feet."

COMING HOME

As the months went by and the babies began to gradually come home, it was clear that the Joneses needed more space. A duplex down the street became available, and Carrie's parents decided to take out a mortgage and give their home to their children. The new arrangement allowed the Petersons to regain some space of their own and blessed the Joneses with a place of their own. Grandpadad and Grandma, as they are known, remain involved in the day-to-day care of the quintuplets and provide support for Carrie and Gavin through this new adventure.

Now, all five babies are home and thriving. Their activity levels and need for interaction and attention keep Carrie, Gavin, big brother Isaac, and their volunteers very busy. There is never a dull moment around the Jones household as almost every moment someone has a pressing need. Though the days and nights can be long, Carrie and Gavin are so grateful for the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon their family.

LIFE IN DALLAS

Even though their heart remains in Papua New Guinea and they are eager to return, the Joneses are grateful for the support that has formed around them in North Texas. While they have been unexpectedly transplanted here for the time being,

the Joneses have seen the Lord's work just as evidently as on the mission field through the prayers and blessings which have overflowed to them.

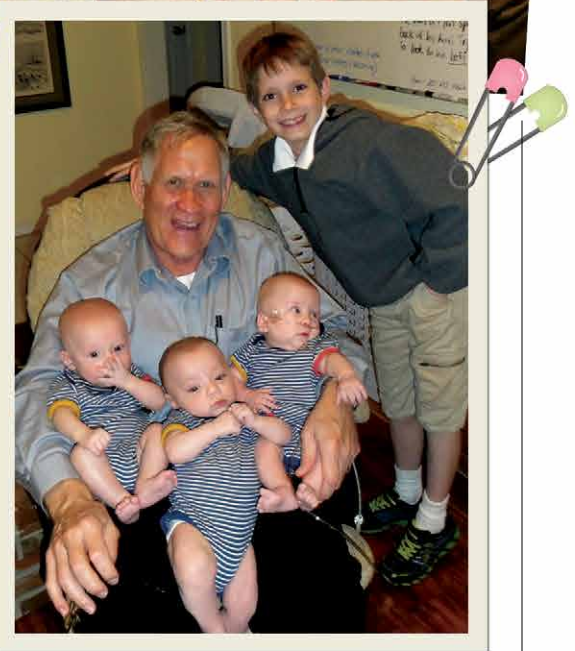
The Joneses have continued to see the Lord at work in their lives while being in Dallas through countless volunteers, prayers and the generosity of both friends and strangers. Mr. Peterson has also been grateful for the support of the DBU family during this time. One day as he was walking to his car from class, DBU President Dr. Gary Cook stopped him and asked how Seth was doing – the quint who had significant struggles and needed extra care and attention while hospitalized. "Having him stop to ask me how my grandson was doing was so touching," Mr. Peterson expressed. "I knew Dr. Cook was praying for my family, along with so many others on campus. The support from DBU has been such a blessing to all of us during this time."

THE DBU TRADITION

Neal Peterson (pictured right with grandsons) began teaching for DBU in the spring of 1998 through the new online education program. His daughter, Carrie, had just graduated from DBU with her bachelor's degree and his son, Kenneth, was beginning his freshman year. A few years later, his youngest daughter Katie would join the family tradition and enroll at DBU in the fall of 2005.

Currently, he teaches online and hybrid courses in web design and finds great pleasure in integrating his faith into his teaching and helping students gain a deeper understanding of both computers and the Bible. "At DBU, we are not just here to educate students, but to equip them for life," Mr. Peterson explained.

Working at DBU has been a very rewarding



experience for Mr. Peterson, particularly the ability to work with adult students.

"Having been an adult student myself has given me an interest and passion for students finishing degrees," Mr. Peterson noted. "I appreciate DBU's encouraging adults in pursuing degrees. It is a blessing to many families."

If you would like to keep up with the Joneses, you can follow their journey at gavincarrie.blogspot.com.

