

HE HAS VISITED AND REDEEMED HIS PEOPLE—LUKE 1:68  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
THE KREIDER FAMILY 2016







*Cotton Social*

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## The Kreider Family Top 16 of 2016

- 1 We had the best time in March with our longtime friends for a mountain cabin reunion in Gatlinburg; that is, until Elin plugged the sink and flooded the cabin from the third story level!
- 2 In April (a.k.a SPRING!!!) the kids experienced their first snow day in Pennsylvania. I'll have to get used to that, though, as the current temperature in Brasov, Romania is 8°F.
- 3 Elin turned two (June 2<sup>nd</sup>), and she is full of sass. She makes up her own songs and makes witty jokes and holds full conversations. I'm pretty sure we could light our Christmas tree with the amount of energy she gives off every day!
- 4 Going to the Living in Grace missionary training week was one of the best weeks of our life! We confronted so many of our idols and benefitted from great one-on-one mentorship.
- 5 We traveled over 6,000 miles in this summer in a car with two babies on our support-raising road trip. And – amazingly - we all survived!
- 6 Getting up close and personal with big cats at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in Indiana was definitely a highlight of our road trip!
- 7 We've presented at 13 different churches in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Virginia. We have really loved worshipping with all these congregations!
- 8 Derek's parents, Mike and Charlene, retired from Pennsylvania and moved in with us in July. God knew we were going to need them because they have been the biggest blessing to us! They are currently building a house in Jefferson, so we plan to sell our house and move in with them.
- 9 We continue to work at Glenn C. Jones Middle School. Derek is teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science, and I'm teaching 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Math and Reading Remediation.
- 10 After spending over an hour getting his hair rolled into tiny curly-cues, Derek won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in our school's Decades Week as he dressed up as a fantastic Bob Dylan!
- 1 After having two garage sales we *still* somehow have more to get rid of. It's been a convicting year as we realize how much stuff we have versus how little we need.
- 12 Atticus turned one (November 1<sup>st</sup>) and is walking and climbing like a pro! He has the greatest smile and a special affinity for Grampa Kreider. If you slapped a beard on him, he would be Derek's toddler doppelgänger!
- 1 We will celebrate 7 years of marriage on December 19<sup>th</sup>! Over the past year we have been participating in monthly marriage counseling sessions as part of MTW's requirements. We have been so blessed by this experience and recommend it for everyone *before* conflict begins!
- 1 We will say goodbye on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to our precious kitties, Clementine and Tang, and feel very comfortable with their new home. But this Christmas will be a little less furry.
- 1 We have financially partnered with 54 families/churches to raise 53% of our needed monthly support and partnered prayerfully with 91 people to raise 9% of our 1,000/40 for 40 prayer partner goal. We hope to meet our goals by this coming June so we can leave for Romania! If you haven't already partnered with us, we would love the opportunity to tell you more about our calling for you to prayerfully consider joining one or both of these teams. ([www.dckreider.com](http://www.dckreider.com))
- 1 We have been reminded of God's faithfulness and love over and over and over again.

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"Praise be to the Lord,, the God of Israel,

because he has come to his people and redeemed them."

- Luke 1:68

One of the things I most look forward to each Christmas is seeing what kind of ornament my mother gets for each of us. Our annual ornaments represent something from that year that reminds her of us. Some are quirky; others sentimental. But they' re always incredibly thoughtful and full of love. We' ve continued this tradition in our marriage and now with our children. Although I don' t know what my mom thinks of our 2016, if I were to choose an ornament for our family year, I would choose a pitcher being poured out.

As I ponder our year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude by how many people have poured into our lives.

Our community has shown us so much love and compassion as they have helped us raise our kids, mentored us in parenting, blessed us with marriage counseling, helped us prepare our house to move, grieved with us, given to our ministry financially, and showered us in prayer. This year has been far from easy as we have been full-time parents, full-time teachers, and full-time itinerating missionaries. Yet the Lord has continued to show us his profound mercy



through all of the people who have surrounded us with love. Thank you for being among those in our "village."

And more than any blessing, I am reminded of how our Almighty God – the literal Creator of the entire universe – decided to come to earth and become a man because he loved us so immeasurably. We constantly struggle to truly understand the magnitude of this amazing gift. So above all else this Christmas, our prayer for ourselves, for you, and for the world is that we would deeply comprehend the joy and hope that Jesus provides for us as he poured himself out to come to earth as a man. We rejoice that Christ came to redeem his people.

With love,

Derek, Catalina, Elin, &

Atticus

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