

We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of

## Elisabeth Mercy Wilson

12:35 am, Sunday, March 15, 2009

9 lbs. even 22-1/2 in.

Elisabeth means “oath of God,” and we’ve chosen Deut. 13:17b for her name verse: “...*He will show you **mercy**, have compassion on you, and increase your numbers, as He promised on **oath** to your forefathers...*”

Little Betsy makes the sixth girl in a row, after four older brothers, fulfilling three-year-old Josh’s dream of “four soldier boys and then six battle girls.” (Josh, our firstborn, is now 17.)

She was born into her father’s hands after a two hour labor, and both Mama and Baby are healthy. Betsy is nursing well, too. We are praising God for so many wonderful answers to prayer and such a beautiful blessing!



## Worshipping God

“Nooooooooooooo!” I (Nate) look up from leading our family devotional time to see an exasperated look on Josh’s face as 2-year-old Aletheia writhes in his lap and screams. Since Paula has a new baby to take care of and I’m up front leading worship, we’ve placed Aletheia in Josh’s care during family devotions and church services, but now it’s time for me to teach my daughter a lesson on worship: “Who are you thinking about Aletheia? Yourself? Who are you supposed to be thinking about? Jesus! Let’s pray: Father please forgive Aletheia for thinking about herself instead of worshipping Jesus with us.” That is the heart of worship, and I believe even a two-year-old can understand this.

Over the last few years, I have had to put careful thought into leading worship. (See the word study on my website.) What sort of songs should we sing? Who should lead? How long should the sermon be? How should prayers be handled? Is there a way to make standing, sitting, or kneeling meaningful? Should communion be weekly; should we use wine or grape juice; leavened or unleavened bread? And how do church traditions figure in? I have reached conclusions on all these issues: for instance, I believe I should use a mix of psalter selections, hymns, and

modern choruses, but I avoid repeating anything more than three times, and I try to stick with songs that make Biblical statements about our God rather than songs that focus on us and our feelings.

I also try to get as many men in the congregation as possible to lead various aspects of worship, including prayer and scripture reading. I believe that Sunday morning corporate worship should be organized for believers to worship God rather than as an evangelistic event for the lost, although I try to communicate the gospel each Sunday in such a way that an unbeliever who attends could understand it. In fact, I want even my 2-year-old to understand it!



Beni (center) accompanies singing with our string ensemble.

## Kid's Corner: Grace Anne

I'm 10 years old, going 11. For my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, I got a new kitten and named her Daizy Gavrielle. For my birthday this year, I want a new car. (Just kidding!) The top news is that I gave 10 inches of my hair to Locks of Love. It feels like my head is light now, but I'm still trying to get used to the new look!

I'm reading the book series *Sisters in Time* – one was about frontier life in the 1800's and the other was about life during World War 2. For my Bible reading, I finished Genesis and started Exodus, but wanted to do something else, so I'm reading Psalms. My Dad and I are enjoying reading *Daughterhood by Design* newsletters together, and I'm reading *God's Will for my Body* with Mama.

I'm still doing Jr. speech events; this year I did "The Pigkeeper" by Hans Christian Anderson. I've also started learning violin and am now helping play in the ensemble at church. My brother Beni is teaching me, and I'm hoping to finish Suzuki book one and get into the Manhattan Silver Orchestra next year!

During freetime, I like jumping on the trampoline and playing with my brothers and sisters. I love holding my new baby sister Elisabeth and rocking her to sleep.

Pray that I would not argue with my brother Peter, and for my temper that I won't get angry with my sisters, and that I'll do well in school and keep growing to be a godly woman.



Grace, our oldest daughter after her haircut.



- Pray for wisdom and spiritual vitality for Nate as a leader in the worship of God - both in our family and in our church congregation.
- Praise God for another student who has asked to become a church member! Pray for his continued spiritual growth!
- Praise God with us for little Elisabeth's birth, and pray that she becomes a godly lady!
- Thanks for praying for our family's health! We're all well – but don't stop praying!
- And pray for our sweet daughter Grace Anne according to her requests above.

