

Christmas 2013

The big news of the year: we are grandparents; it's a BOY (not the expected girl) – Matt and Betsy were due to have their baby girl on June 14. Instead, Ain came nine days late and surprised us all being a boy. It was a long delivery, but everyone is fine. Ain is now approaching 6 months old. It is great to have Ain and parents nearby where we can see them regularly.



Our work lives continue to be both rewarding and challenging. **Cathy's teaching** – During the first half of the year, Cathy completed a very challenging 2012-13 school year teaching two science classes for area homeschools and two classes at Veritas Christian School. The big challenge was teaching physical science at Veritas for the first time with a large class and a textbook that the students had a hard time comprehending. This school year Cathy is teaching familiar classes from familiar textbooks: biology and advanced biology to Lawrence area homeschoolers and two physical science classes to homeschoolers at nearby Gardner. It is also more to her liking to teach three days a week instead of every day at Veritas.

David's job- It was another challenging year as **chief engineer** of Kansas' Division of Water Resources with continued intensity of the on-going interstate water litigation on top of the other diverse responsibilities of his position. During mid-October, the pace slackened a bit. However, a new challenge is coming: his office is moving to Manhattan, Kansas (50 miles west of Topeka; 80 miles from our home). Many staff are finding other work rather than move (we are NOT planning to move but it will significantly increase David's commute).

Ministry – David continues on his sabbatical from serving as an elder at our church, although he teaches from time to time (twice this year from 1 Peter). We both are involved in leading a small group and helping with the college ministry.

More family news

Vacations - We had another good summer vacation early June with all the kids (except Betsy and Matt who were anticipating Ain's delivery). Much of Cathy's family joined us as well. It was again at our timeshare on Table Rock Lake (in the Branson, Missouri area) including another great time on the lake.

Our daughters and their husbands – Everyone is well. Jobs are a challenge in this economy but everyone is coping. Amy quit teaching as it was very stressful and is seeking to build a business teaching piano and more.

The extended family – David and family bid farewell to his brother James and family as they moved to Atlanta this summer.

Misc.

- This summer we celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary.
- We remain committed to health by regular exercise (in the morning at home) and eating well. Our favorite recipes and exercise recommendations are on our web sites (dcbarfield.org and dbarfield.org). David continues to read on the topic. His favorite book of the year: Fat Chance: Beating the Odds Against Sugar, Processed Food, Obesity, and Disease by Robert Lustig.
- David started listening to Audible about a year ago, which has really expanded his “reading,” listening during his commute, his walks and runs with the dogs, and when doing chores. Cathy is also listening on her commutes to Gardner and when in the kitchen. For more, see <http://dbarfield.org/tag/audible/>.

More book (listening) recommendations:

- David - Charles Dickens' Great Expectations. Wonderfully performed on Audible.
- Cathy continues in a book club, now in its 6th year. Her favorites of the year include The Zookeepers Wife by Diane Ackerman, The Reading Promise by Alice Ozma, and The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom.

Wishing you the best in this blessed season!

David and Cathy Barfield