



The Harvest is Plentiful

at Minnesota State University, Mankato



June 2010

Announcing... the arrival of Phinehas Sterling Bislew!

Dear friends and family we are so blessed to announce the arrival of our dear son, Phinehas Sterling Bislew on April 21, 2010 at 1:34 pm. He weighed 10 pounds 9.9 ounces and was 23 inches long. He kept us waiting 10 days beyond the due date and the doctor finally had to break Heather's water. God was so faithful to answer all your prayers through the whole pregnancy, labor, and delivery! We would like to share a few testimonies surrounding his birth and his name for your encouragement.

The labor was the most peaceful and "easy" labor of any that Heather has had! The most difficult part was the pushing stage, which was lasting quite a while and Heather was getting quite exhausted. The doctor then told us that the baby's head was turned to the side, making it more difficult to descend. He attempted to turn it, but could not. Then, Heather switched positions and pushed a few times, but did not feel it was working. Finally Johnathan laid hands on her and prayed, and the next push the doctor said the head had turned! Glory to God. After that it did not take long for Phinehas to be born!



This picture was taken at about 8 pm on April 21

We did not find out the baby's gender by ultrasound, but we knew we were having a baby boy even before we conceived him! The Holy Spirit spoke to both of us in a unique way about his name. In previous conversations during our marriage, Johnathan said he would like to have a son named Phinehas. Honestly, Heather did not really like the name at first, however, the Holy Spirit kept speaking it to her. Johnathan wanted this name because approximately 18 years ago he preached a sermon out of Numbers 25, and he gained an appreciation for Phinehas. So, Heather decided to read this sermon.

As she read it (on the road as we were driving to the Summit last June), the Holy Spirit was speaking to her about the amazing man that Phinehas was and the honor that God gave him as a result of his jealousy for the righteousness of God. As she was reading it, she asked Johnathan, "Do you really want to name a son Phinehas?" He said yes. Then she asked what he thought about the name Phinehas Sterling.

** See page 3 for the continuation of the story and more pictures!**

A week and a half after Phinehas was born we had our end of the year picnic at MSU. As usual we had more students (90) in attendance than we could possibly talk to. While grilling the food I (Johnathan) was able to share the gospel with an international student named Roy. He was raised religious, but never knew you could have a personal relationship with Jesus. We're believing Jesus for Roy to meet the savior soon!



Picnic

Baptisms



Shirley's Baptism

This summer we had the privilege of baptizing Shirley from China and Steve from Kenya at our home here at MSU. Nothing is more exciting than watching two young students abandon themselves for the

glory of Jesus! Shirley and Steve both gave powerful testimonies of the Lords transforming work in their lives before their baptisms. Their testimonies really impacted the many saved and unsaved students that were in attendance that day. It has been a great joy to be mentoring and discipling Shirley and Steve in the Lord. They both have a leadership gift on their lives and never pass up a chance to share their faith with unsaved friends and family. Thank you for sowing your prayers and financial support into these students from MSU!



Steve's Baptism

Steve led these two young ladies from Kenya to Christ shortly after his own salvation.

Linnette



Linnette lead her mom to Christ

In our last newsletter we shared with you about the amazing salvation of Linnette from El Salvador. Because she was only here on a one semester student exchange program, she had to return to El Salvador this past May 11th. Linnette came to America lost and returned to El Salvador as an Ambassador for Christ! Because of Linnette's passion for the Lord many churches have already asked her to share her testimony to there congregations. But what's even more exciting is that Linnette was able to lead her mom to Jesus this past month and witness her Mom's baptism into Christ! Glory! Together we're taking the gospel to the nations from MSU!

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



- * Please pray for the salvation of Soyol, Sunil and Pramod. These are three students from Nepal that we have been able to share the gospel with multiple times. The Lord is indeed calling them!
- * Please continue to pray that Jesus will give us divine wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment as we minister to future leaders of the world here at MSU.

Johnathan's e-mail: bislew@mac.com · Heather's e-mail: hbislew@charter.net

Please send all financial gifts and personal correspondence to:

Campus Missions International · P.O. Box 18355 · Minneapolis, MN 55418

Send us a friend request on Facebook!!



1 month old



2 months old

* Continued from page 1...*

Heather saw the name “Sterling” as she was reading a book about child training, and it really impacted her spirit. As Johnathan was saying, “Phinehas Sterling” and “trying it out”, Heather looked up and saw a road sign that identified the town we were driving through as Sterling, Colorado. She pointed it out to Johnathan, and he said, “Is that confirmation?” We both laughed and tucked it in our hearts at that moment. In July, we did conceive, and we believed that it was Phinehas!

With each child, Heather has prayed and asked the Lord to give her scriptures for the child; a life verse or verses, prophetic of the destiny and call God has on the child's life. We obviously had the story of Phinehas from Numbers 25 that God had spoken to us, but what did it mean? Phinehas took a spear and struck the two persons who were sinning and causing the plague in the Israelite camp. This stopped the plague from spreading further.

Phinehas was zealous for the righteousness of God and willing to do what was necessary to stop the plague of sin in the camp. As revealed to Johnathan in his preparation for his sermon so many years ago, the name Phinehas means “mouth”. In the New Testament, in Romans 10:8-11, it says, “...the Word is near you, in your mouth...” and what is the word of God? In Ephesians 6:17-19, it says, the sword of the Spirit is the word of God, in the New Testament. So, Phinehas (mouth) stopped the plague caused by sin by using a spear (sword) in the Old Testament. However, how we stop the plague of sin NOW, is by speaking the truth of the Word of God from our mouths, which is the sword of the Spirit!

Sterling means “excellent”. The scripture that the Holy Spirit gave to Heather, connecting Phinehas and Sterling was 1 Peter 2: 9-12 (in part), “But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” God gave Phinehas a perpetual priesthood (he was the grandson of Aaron, in the line of the priests) so that he may proclaim (from his mouth) the excellencies of Him!

However, the ultimate confirmation was when Heather was 37 weeks pregnant and reading her Bible on March 12, 2010. She read Isaiah 49:1-6, which says, (in part), “The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me. He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. He said to Me, “You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory.”

After reading this, Heather had complete confirmation and no doubt that she was carrying Phinehas Sterling. This verse rang loud and clear in her spirit several things from the Lord:

- * “The Lord called me from the womb; from the body of my mother He named me”: God had given us the name of our son before he was conceived.
- * “He has made my mouth like a sharp sword”: This referred to Phinehas' name meaning “mouth” and the connection between the sword of Phinehas in the Old Testament to the Word of God in the New Testament.
- * “He has made me a select arrow, He has hidden me in His quiver”: Children are referred to as “arrows” in Psalm 127:4 “Like **arrows** in the hand of a warrior, so are the **children** of one's youth. and a full “quiver” is thought by some theologians to be five (Phinehas is our fifth child)!

Based on all these verses, we believe Phinehas has a mighty destiny and call on his life to be a preacher of the Gospel to many with a boldness, exactness, and a zealousness for Jesus! He has already begun cooing and “talking” to us very frequently at 2 months old, practicing his preaching!