



## THE CLAGGETT CABLE



Our newsletter is a bit late this year, but that's because our holiday season was pretty crazy and some things had to give . . . like our newsletter. But now that things have slowed down (a little), we can update you on our crazy life!

It started at the beginning of November, when Ben came home from work and said he had an opportunity to work in Canada for a couple of months. It turns out they meant the next couple of months and could we come right away? So we rushed around to find a place to stay near Halifax, Nova Scotia and packed what we thought we needed for two months that included Christmas and a birthday. After a month, they asked if Ben could stay until the end of May. Now we are finalizing the details on a new place to live for the rest of our time here. I can't believe it will be almost summer the next time we're in New Jersey!

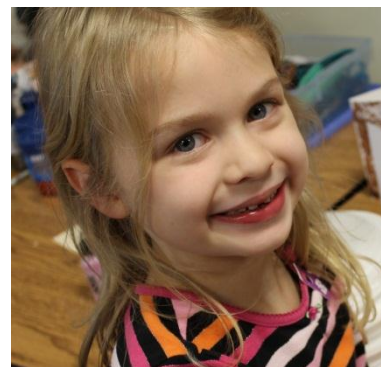
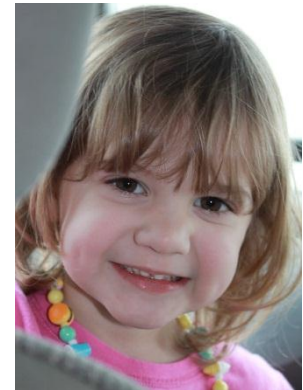
The kids are enjoying Canada, particularly the more regular snowfall than we have back home. Ben is enjoying his job up here and its lack of meetings (so far). And me? Well, I'm *much* happier since we borrowed a crib from someone so Charlotte and I can both get a good night's sleep. Our first month here was *not* pretty.

Charlotte is almost 2 and is a very busy toddler. She reminds us very much of Lizzy as a baby – busy,



busy, busy! She always wants to be a part of what everyone is doing, which is sweet but also presents lots of challenges to the rest of us.

Annabelle just turned 4 and has developed quite a stubborn streak! But she's also funny and giggly, and she loves to sing and color. Her current obsession is Cars and she wants to wear her Lightning McQueen shirt every day. Even Charlotte makes sure to point out Lightning McQueen things to Annabelle while we're out shopping!



Lizzy turned 6 just before we left New Jersey. She is in kindergarten this year, which has been a bit of a challenge for

both of us. After some trial and error, we discovered she loves logic puzzles (analogies, patterns, sequences, etc.) and she is willing to suffer through phonics lessons to get to her "fun school". She's getting pretty good at reading 3 and 4 letter words. And she's still my helper – always eager to assist me, unless it's changing diapers. Can't get her interested in that. . . :P

Katherine will be 10 in April. She's grown to be so kind and thoughtful – and tall! Her 5<sup>th</sup> grade studies are going great, and she is particularly



enjoying learning about the history, geography, and environment of the different provinces and territories of Canada – and quizzing the grown ups! She's started reading manga (Japanese comic books) – I can't keep up with how fast she blows through them! We're definitely looking into getting a library card for the rest of our time here.



Ben and I had a busy year – even before going to Canada. We both taught classes at our homeschool co-op in the Spring. I was able to tag along with Ben on a business trip to Colorado

Springs in May and we went to Gen-Con (a big board game convention) in Indiana for our 13<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

We took the girls camping in Maine for a few days (Charlotte hung out with Grandma Naomi). And Ben started taking the girls hiking on the weekends but so far I've been able to stay home (with the baby, of course). ☺



For me, it's been a tough few months. With Charlotte entering full-blown toddlerhood, adding a new official student to my homeschool, and moving our family far from home for a few months, it seems like my work load has at least tripled from what I'm used to. It's only been bearable because we've added a new member to our household – and no, not another baby.

Erica's mom Siobhan (GB) sold her house this Spring. She is now an official New Jersey resident. And while she joined us on our adventure to "The Great White North", she's planning to head back to New Jersey soon to keep an eye on our house for us. When we get back, we will (hopefully) be making a final decision about either building GB her own space on our house, or selling and moving to a new one.



God continues to be faithful in providing for our every need – and in some very surprising ways! We have kept this Scripture in our hearts as we walk in faith:

"A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure."  
Proverbs 16:9 (Amplified Bible)

God Bless you in this New Year,  
Benjamin, Erica, Katherine, Lizzy, Annabelle,  
and Charlotte Claggett

