



The Visser Testimony - 2010

"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your Name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds!" Psalms 75:1

February

Our church, Open Arms, where we'd been ministering since 2004, closed its doors. We felt called to attend Haws Avenue United Methodist Church located two blocks up the street from us. It was more traditional than we were used to, but we knew we were supposed to be there. We believe this church to be very ripe for a harvest so it's an exciting time and we are looking for more ways to serve there.



March

At 11 PM on March 10th, Jess's water broke and Honor Jah Visser was delivered at 12:39 AM March 11th. It was a wonderful birth. A wee bit fast as the midwife got here literally just in time, but no complaints. We were blessed to do it in the comfort of our home and Fiery could see her little brother being born. He was a very beautiful 8 lb. 4 oz. baby boy and took to breast feeding wonderfully. Having two kids would prove to be a *huge* adjustment (especially for Jess) in the upcoming months. Thankfully Tim was able to take off for 2 weeks to be at home full time to ease the transition.

Jess celebrated her 24th birthday.





April

In April God highlighted to us a house on Main Street a few blocks away that had just recently been put up for sale. It's a gorgeous Victorian mansion. We felt God saying He wanted us to move into this house but we should wait on Him until He directed us further. So we waited.

May

Tim graduated from Chestnut Hill College with a BS in Computer Science. We are *very* happy that Tim is finally done with school. It was a hard 6 years but it's been amazing to see how much we grew through that season.

We and the Visser family took a trip to St. Thomas and it was a very relaxing and beautiful time. We went for two reasons: to celebrate Tim's graduation, and to let Dad Visser stick his feet in a clear ocean. So we took a 19 month old and a 2 month old on a 5 hour plane ride. Twice. When it was all said and done the kids did wonderfully and it was *really* nice having all those free baby sitters! Tim got to touch a sea turtle and we enjoyed the time with family.



July

In July Jesse and Katie announced that they were pregnant and due in early March (Honor's same guess date!). We are *very* excited to be welcoming in a little boy cousin in March!

Fiery got her first hair cut and we went a bit Asian—long on the sides and short in the back. We think it suites her well.

August

On morning Jess woke up and felt like it was time to take the next step in pursuing the house on Main Street. We called up the realtor and asked to be shown the house. It was absolutely breath taking. The previous owners did a fantastic job taking care of keeping up with it and maintaining it's old beauty.



We visited the Camden Aquarium with some friends and family. Fiery was only 5 months old on her first trip so it was nice that she could understand what she was looking at. And, it was Tim's first time.

And then... things get crazy.



September

In early September Tim lost his job interning at the Financial Management Service. When Tim graduated from college the government had 120 days to decide whether they were going to hire him full time. We just really wanted God's will to be done. The process was so long and drawn out that we were thankful for *any* answer. They decided that they could not afford to take on another full time employee with their current budget. Tim completed a project that he had been working on for the past couple of years and it was a really nice way to end.

Tim began to search for a job which is difficult because Tim never searched for a job. From college to his employment at the government, it's as if God just drops everything in Tim's lap with a "here, I want you doing this." After praying about job-searching Tim didn't feel like this would be any different. He just felt encouraged to broaden his programming knowledge by learning a new programming language called Clojure and to practice a programming kata every day. A kata is a small exercise meant to be memorized that helps hone the way you interact with a language and your software. For the truly masochistic among you, Tim wrote a [long blog](#) post about them. So every day Tim worked on Clojure, did a kata, some other things that helped him develop better skills, and spent more time with the family.



A dream had been brewing our minds ever since we'd been married about how edifying and fun it would be to live like they did in the early New Testament church, in community with other believers. To share resources, responsibilities, living simply with other brothers and sisters while encouraging every one on a daily basis in their walk with Christ.

Ironically, after Tim lost his job we felt the go-ahead to start talking to other Christian families about this with the house on Main Street in mind. This was odd, considering we couldn't afford a house, but we met with a few families and shared our vision for this idea.

We felt a definite move in the Spirit that we are now in a new season.



October

Fiery turned 2 and for her birthday we took her out to the Please Touch Museum. If you've never gone, you should (even if you're an adult) because it was really a lot of fun (it was Jess's first time also). It's like a huge city, but for little people. They had a mock-grocery store where you could buy items and put them in a cart and then "check out." This was Fiery's favorite.

Honor tried his hand at solids. His first tries were a banana and a homemade pizza crust (he preferred the pizza crust).

Tim was still searching for a job.

November

A lot happened in November. Honor started to crawl (and finally started to sit on his own).



Honor had his first ride on a SEPTA train when we went down to the Reading Terminal Market (yum, yum!) with the Kranjecs.



In light of the "new season" Jess got back her dread locks at a local African salon.

We found out the house that we believed God wanted us to have got sold. To be honest we were disappointed and confused. That day Jess was praying and told God that the house was sold. And she heard, "Yes, I know. I sold it." We are assuming this is just a part of the plan and continue to wait on God.

Tim met a man named Dave through the Mens Small Group that was started at Haws Avenue recently. Through prayer and conversation, Tim and Jess decided that they should open their home to Dave and allow him to move in with them. As we write this, we're still working on making this happen.

This was also a time where God clarified each of our life callings. To be honest, it was pretty amazing. Jess received words for herself, Fiery and Honor within a couple of weeks and Tim received a word for himself in the same exact span of time (and we didn't put all of this together until later).

We celebrated Tim's 25th birthday with a trip to our favorite restaurant, Ruby Tuesday's.



Tim was still searching for a job. It was getting harder (especially for Jess). It had been 3 months since Tim lost his job, and all Tim was doing was learning Clojure and doing katas. But we still believed that God would provide, so we waited.

December

It was been awesome! A guy named Jeff who works for Turnberry Solutions (a consulting company in Blue Bell) found Tim through LinkedIn. He looked up Tim's blog, liked what he saw and contacted Tim asking for a resume. Tim acquiesced and this guy literally does *all the work*. He lined interview after interview up for Tim at jobs that he thought would fit Tim's style. One of these interviews was at Siemens (they write software for hospitals) in Malvern and in an amazing display of merciful providence, the interview consisted of a kata, in any programming language you choose, including Clojure, which really helped Tim hit it off with this company. God is so good! He starts on the 27th of December, Lord willing.

A testimony to God's goodness: in the three months that Tim was jobless, we never once had to dip into our savings. This is a miracle, since Unemployment Benefits were giving us a mere \$20K a year. We're not exactly sure how it worked out, but it did. So praise God!

Tim had the crazy idea of doing a "hardcore album" photo shoot for our Christmas photos. Jess, who needed some convincing, finally agreed and the idea for the package that you received in the mail was born.

Have a *wonderful* Christmas!

