

メリークリスマス

(Merry Christmas)

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"And Baby makes... Four."

Winter 1992

Merry Christmas... Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu... Happy New Year. This past year has turned out to be a very happy year for us. During the spring, life was pretty rough with the boys being born premature... but through the summer and fall, the boys continually demonstrated their health and accelerated development.

Andrew & Cameron

Last September, we all went down to Osaka to spend a week with Eiko's family. The boys had just gone to see a premature baby development specialist and she was quite surprised to see both of the boys rocking on their knees ready to crawl. Soon after, Andy started to crawl... and Rony followed along 2 weeks later. By October, they were regularly pulling themselves up into a standing position.

A few days after Christmas, the boys will be 10 months old. Although they, like Spike Jones, won't be sporting 2 *front teeth*... Andy and Rony each have their first tooth. Both of the boys had the exact same lower right tooth break through on the same day, 13 December. Andy already has his second tooth and Rony's gum is swollen, preparing for his second.

During the boys' first several months, in order to reasonably compare the boys to growth and developmental norms, it was necessary to consider their due date as their birth date. But surprisingly in the last few months, the boys have been hitting developmental milestones on time without compensating the additional 7 weeks. Now, there is absolutely no

sign or indicator that the boys were ever premature. Praise the Lord.

Christmas in America

This Christmas finds us in America. Rockwell is expanding its product line into digital cellular telephone chipsets in America and also considering doing so in Japan. Rockwell wanted to send me to America in October to help finish up the American product and to obtain advance technical information for the Japanese product. Since the trip would be for 2-3 months, we decided to bring Eiko, Cameron, and Andrew too.

Wintering in California has been a little difficult for Eiko since she does not drive and missing her family, but we have really enjoyed the weather and spending time with my family. It's really great having baby-sitters that will take the boys several days at a time. Also it was the first time for many members of my family to see Cameron and Andrew.

Kawaii Chorus

One of the things that we have noticed in Japan, and to a large extent in America, is that twins, especially those associated with foreigners, are considered rather unusual. We have the opportunity (loosely translated: burden) of meeting and answering questions to just about everyone we pass on the street or in stores. Even if we do not meet them, we cause a stir. Passing a gaggle of girls always elicits a "Kawaii!" (Cute!). One evening, we even garnered a semi-harmonized rendition of "Kawaii!" when a dozen Jr. High girls spontaneously and

simultaneously sang out after spotting the boys. Fortunately, the notoriety has helped Eiko to meet other mothers and it has furthered my situation as well. In the neighborhood, I used to be referred to as the foreigner... but now I have gained an identity... I am the foreigner-with-the-twins.

Japanese people are always very curious which boy is older since the oldest boy is expected to take care of the siblings and later the parents. It is claimed the eldest is almost always *born* with the *character* to do so. This belief is very strong and assumed to apply to twins also. In fact, the Japanese Mother of Twins Club has published "scientific" surveys that fulfill this expectation. Somehow, I find it very difficult to believe that Cameron should act older than Andrew when they were born only 2 minutes apart and randomly selected because of the C-section. However, we have noticed the boys' character do differ, even at this early age. It is easy to make Rony laugh and he enjoys sleeping on his tummy. Andy is more outgoing and likes sleeping on his side or back. We will have to wait awhile before further commenting on the Elder Syndrome.

Owari

Well we hope that you and your families have Happy Holidays. We look forward to see you during our remaining time in America or any time in Japan.

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