

# **B A B Y T A L K**

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An update from Samuel and Rebecca Niblack, Nov/Dec 2004

**Birth is currently a major theme in our lives, and a great cause for rejoicing.**

We praise God for the birth of Simeon Carlton ! He was born September 20 (7lbs, 5oz) after the long-drawn-out and courageous labors of Rebecca. We are especially thankful for a normal delivery, as the doctors pronounced numerous times during the delivery that a c-section would be necessary. If Simeon could speak, he would have to proclaim with the Psalmist, « *Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.* »

Since then, the church here has been wonderfully supportive and generous in welcoming Simeon. We thank you for your prayers also (remembering that Simeon means “heard, answered”). See [www.niblack.org/sam/simeon](http://www.niblack.org/sam/simeon) for a collection of pictures...

**Birth is also a major theme in the Bible, and the great end of our ministry** —that is, the glorious new birth. We rejoice to see the arrival and the growth of Anne, Florian, Henri, and Gaëlle as they drink the pure milk of the Word. We see each one regularly to encourage them and walk them to maturity. The Bible reminds us that the same pains and joys we recently experienced with Simeon accompany spiritual birth and parenting. We try to adopt Paul’s resolve: “For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

We also praise God for the “birth” of a Bible school in Toulouse, born just a few days after Simeon. We start the first year with 11 students. Both students and professors are sacrificially and enthusiastically investing themselves in order to rightly handle the word of truth. I’m teaching several classes and Rebecca handles lots of the administration and reading assignments.

**Birth is also the major theme of this season, and a great reason to evangelize.** Several evangelistic efforts are planned for this time of year — we pray that family and friends will consider the miracle birth of the Savior and bow before Him “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

With thanks and praise to The Author of Life,

*Sam & Rebecca*