



Merry Christmas from the Brakes! 🎄

Edward & Emily Brake

Merry Christmas!

The semester has officially ended and campus is quiet. I (Emily) have been pondering the gift of presence the last week or so as various people have shown up on our doorstep either to drop off surprise gifts (and remind us how much a dinner invitation might mean to an international student far from home) or return borrowed sweaters and Christmas decorations. It's easy to feel in the season of raising small children that we're not able to do as much as we want and therefore we're not doing "enough." But the past few days have been a good reminder that just being here and being willing to invite people into our (sometimes chaotic)

home for dinner or to borrow a sweater matters.

After all, God chose to dwell with us as a baby, with all the limitations that entailed. If His glory can shine in a newborn swaddled in a stable manger, it can shine in a home with a floor that's sprinkled with toys and crumbs. So whatever your limitations are this Christmas season, we're praying that you will trust that Christ can still shine in your life.

Wishing you the joy of Immanuel,

Edward, Emily, Samuel (age 5) and Sophia (age 3)

PS-We always love hearing from you! Drop us a line and let us know how we can be praying for you in 2024 :)

***“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel” (which means
“God with us”). -Matthew 1:23***