



Brian and Amy's Christmas Newsletter ~ 2007



*My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior
Luke 1:46-47*

Greetings from the newest Cahill family! Following the example of our parents, we are taking up the pen (or keyboard) to give an account of our life this year. We have really seen the Lord at work and would like to testify of His doings so you can praise His goodness with us.



Oct. 28, 2006

Everything started in May of 2006. After a brief meeting in Michigan, Brian felt the Lord telling him that Amy was the one for him. After much prayer, Brian met with the parents of this girl he barely knew and offered himself as a candidate for marriage. Amy was totally surprised when her dad delivered the news and gave tentative consent to "let him try." The families met on July 4th and Amy spent the next day seeking counsel from her parents and the Lord. She concluded that God wanted her to marry Brian and trusted the Lord to put a love for him in her heart. That was all that Brian needed to begin a fast-paced wooing that had them engaged within three weeks and married by October, totally in love.

The following six months were dedicated to learning about each other. We purposed to do everything together, putting aside our individual pursuits. Brian planned a beautiful honeymoon in Watersmeet, MI where we biked, hiked, canoed, rappelled, played in the snow and tried to keep warm. Back at our new home on the ALERT campus we ran in the mornings and spent our evenings playing games,

talking, reading good books and fellowshiping with others. Through prayer, God provided plane tickets that allowed us to spend Christmas with the Cahill family in CA. Valentine's was filled with surprises as Brian decorated the bathroom with over 50 paper hearts while Amy prepared his favorite dinner and a special evening getaway. Throughout the year, Amy has come up with creative "dates" including a spa night, hikes to see the sunrise, and a Roman feast that was eaten while reclining by a low table. Brian contributed quality time by teaching Amy how to rebuild laptops and network computers. The projects started small but eventually led to a massive server move starting at 3AM!



Valentine Surprise



Computer Nerds

We emerged from this beautiful time as a team, ready to take on the challenges of life. As we sought direction from God in February, He made it clear that we would soon leave ALERT. However, we knew that we needed to be living a life of service and involvement until that time came. A sort of symbol of this lifestyle

was found in our garden. We didn't know if we would be around to harvest the produce, but enjoyed planting and keeping it maintained. After much searching and praying over what things were important, we joined a small church. Brian started pursuing a degree and a few more computer certifications – preparing himself for whatever God would have in store. Amy threw herself into the girl's program she had worked the last several years; speaking on marriage, modesty and trusting God. She also instructed exercise, planned special events and filmed the daily activities.



Garden Bounty



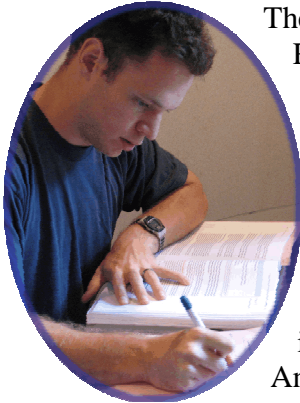
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Even though our future was uncertain, we felt God's direction to start a family and were soon delighted to be expecting a child, due in March of '08! We both received our Bachelors degrees within a month of each other – time for the next stage.



Our Little "Tadpole"

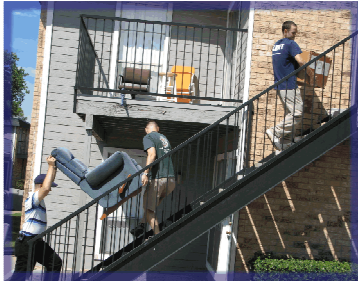
Brian gave ALERT his notice that we would be leaving at some point in the future so that they could begin looking for a replacement.



Study Time

Then we worked together to figure out how to write a Resume, thankful for family and friends that gave advice and helped with job leads. Brian filled out numerous applications and an interview or two trickled in. Finally, after months of searching we were discouraged – had we heard wrong? Didn't God tell us to move? We poured out our doubts to the Lord and asked Him to give us some kind of indication the next day. It was as if the Lord was just waiting for us to totally rely on His work instead of our efforts. The next day, Nexstar Broadcasting, a company in Dallas, found his resume and set up an interview for Saturday! Monday, Brian was offered a job as a Linux/Network Systems Analyst. After talking things over with Amy and praying, he accepted, and started work two weeks later. The timing worked perfectly as Brian was able to get many loose ends wrapped up, leaving the computer department at ALERT in good order.

So now we are at a new beginning in our married life. Amy researched housing on the Internet and God blessed us with a wonderful apartment. Family and friends provided the manpower and trailer to make the move and the Lord further provided many of our furniture needs through Brian's parents and grandparents. Friends had counseled us about the value of finding a church family. So each Sunday morning, evening and Wednesday night found us at a different church, searching for a place of fellowship and ministry. Through one church we met a lady who offered us a free sonogram and introduced us to the birthing center where we found a wonderful midwife, indeed, the Lord is taking care of us. We did become discouraged after visiting a dozen or so churches without finding one that seemed to be a good fit for us. Crying out to the Lord, we found He was only waiting to be asked and shortly provided a wonderful church we had somehow missed. We attended several Sundays, asked questions and had the pastor and his wife over for a visit all with a growing conviction that this would be our new spiritual family.



The new place!

As we look back on all that has happened in this first year of marriage we are awed to see the hand of God so prominently in our lives. We have sought to be open to His leading and He has brought us again and again to dependence on Him. Although life has both good times and bad times, we have seen that through it all, God is working out His perfect plan for us. We would encourage each of you to pray and ask God for specific things and then you too can marvel as He works in your life. Merry Christmas!



Certified Diver

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.
Philippians 2:13*



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