



Brian and Amy's Christmas Newsletter - 2008

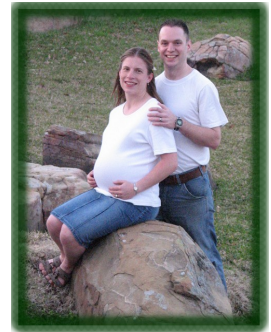


*Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.
Psalms 92:13*



Our little family

In January we joined a local church and began investing ourselves as opportunities arose. Brian was asked to lead a group through Financial Peace University while Amy took on 20 kids for preschool choir. Together we supervised kids while parents took a night out, and Amy pitched in on some church cleaning days. This coming Valentines day, Amy looks forward to hosting a Father/daughter banquet with her Dad presenting a talk on how they built a special relationship.



Any day now!



Hello World!

March 20th brought a special blessing in the form of our firstborn son, Lance Jeffrey. After 3 days of labor he was born at home with the assistance of our midwives. The rejoicing was brief as he struggled to breath on his own and was transported to the hospital. Lance had a tear in his lung which leaked air around his heart. The 10 days at Children's hospital were difficult for us as new parents. We had to struggle with worries, expectations and a desire to be our own family. While everything seemed overwhelming at the time, we can say with surety that God works everything for the good of those that love Him.

Lance is now a healthy, happy little boy. He has a cheerful disposition and a ready smile for admirers. Amy is blessed to be able to stay at home and witness child development first hand. We are taking our role as parents seriously, reading books on parenting and child training. Amy has put a few ideas into practice, including infant potty training. Lance has been so much fun that his parents figured another one couldn't hurt. We are thrilled to announce that baby #2 will make it's appearance in early July.



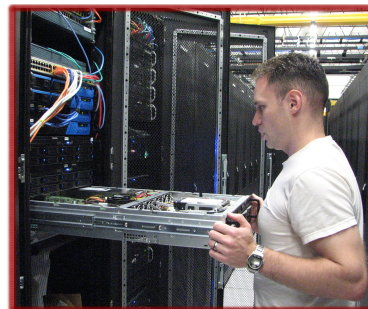
**Potty time
with Rubber Duckie**



Finishers!

To get back in shape after pregnancy, Amy took to running again. Over the last 6 months, she and Brian have put in many miles preparing for the Dallas White Rock Marathon. Starting at a month old, Lance joined his active parents in a jogging stroller, riding for hours without complaint! To make the long runs interesting we toured local attractions on foot: Texas Stadium, Six Flags, Ranger Ball Park, DFW Airport and the new Cowboy Stadium. We accomplished our goal on Dec. 14th. The race was difficult but we encouraged each other through and after 5 hours and 4 minutes of running we can proudly claim the title of marathon alumni!

Brian has outdone himself this year! After one year on the job he has been promoted and proved himself capable in many new areas. He helped the company transition from one boss to another and moved the corporate data center while maintaining constant uptime for his web servers. His zeal on the job doesn't slow down when he gets home. Evenings and weekends were spent writing papers for his MBA/MIS degree which he finished this month! Many thanks to Amy for her encouragement and editing skills – even if the content was a bit technical.



Data Center Troubleshooting



Caving adventures

and Jones families for a time of food and games. We were able to leave Lance at Grandma's and escape to a friend's lake house for our 2nd anniversary. Brian also got a new work schedule, giving him more time on weekends to study or visit family. God is so good to us!

The Lord has multiplied our time with family. In the spring, we went on vacation with the Cahill family to Devil's Den state park. Being the first grandchild, Lance had plenty of willing babysitters allowing Amy to experience the caves and trails along with her adventuresome husband. Amy also planned date nights around Irving's free attractions and local parks. Father's day included a steak grill out and Boccie ball. Thanksgiving week was spent with the Cahill



First haircut – 6 mo.



Making waves

Our lease came up for renewal and we decided to move to another apartment – barely a mile away. We chose something quieter and roomier with the desire to practice hospitality. So far we've hosted many for dinner, held a “block party” to get to know our neighbors and kept Amy's family for a weekend visit. One visitor was Brian's 14 year old brother who stayed a week to help Amy complete her work on the Nutcracker radio drama, featuring the voices of the Cahill and Jones families. We are always open to receiving guests, no matter how impromptu and would be thrilled to have you join us for a meal if you're ever in the area.

Yes, our life has overflowed with good things as we seek to be well pleasing to God. What has the Lord done for you? We hope that you can see His works and say with us “Blessed be the Lord God... who only does wonderful things...let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.” Psalms 72:18-19



Daddy time!

Merry Christmas!



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