

Brian and Amy's Christmas Newsletter - 2009



Family Vacation

Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men on whom His favor rests.. - Luke 2:14

Dear family and friends, the year is ending and in looking back I give glory to God and feel that His favor rests on us. Many things going through Congress right now cause concern for those of us who do not wish to tie our personal life into national government. But Psalm 37 tells us not to “fret because of evil men, or be envious of those

who do wrong...a little while and they will be no more, though you look for them, they will not be found.” However, “the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.” That last verse describes our year – one of peace and safety.

For starters, Brian was promoted to I.T. Manager and was able to hire on a buddy to take his old position. This gave him a little breathing room when it came to being on call, doing late night work and going on vacation. He was also able to take a week and attend a Red Hat training course and get the RHCE certification.

After the chaos and difficulties surrounding Lance's birth, Amy's second pregnancy, labor and delivery was a peaceful contrast. On the morning of July 6, she started having contractions. After 3 days of labor with Lance, Amy was in no hurry to call this the real thing. She spent

the morning doing little things around the house. When things were still going by lunch time she called to notify the midwife and Brian. To help time pass, she planned dinner and visited a neighbor for a few hours. By 3:00pm labor seemed sure enough to call her sister, Stacie, who lived three hours away and hoped to attend the birth. Brian was called home at 4:00 and Lance was picked up by Brian's grandparents at 6:00. By this time things seemed pretty intense but Amy still thought she had a ways to go. The midwives whisked in at 7:00, closely followed by Stacie and at 7:10 the Cahill family had a new member! Ivy Annette came into the world at a healthy 8 lbs. 2 oz. and 21 ½ inches long.



Baby doll – Ivy at 2 days old



**Lance at his checkup with
Grandpa “Doc”**

amazes us with climbing skills. He is a detail guy, experimenting with cause and effect, especially in the throwing department. Amy taught him some sign language and he took to it better than expected, learning over a dozen signs before he could say “mommy.” He's finally potty trained...if we remember to take him often enough. He loves his baby sister dubbing her with the name “nungy” and bestowed his first kiss on her when they met. Their doctor charts are exactly opposite – Lance remains a “little guy” staying well below the 5th percentile while Ivy goes off the charts on the other end of the spectrum. At the current rate they'll be the same size in another month or two. Amy feels blessed to stay home with her children, invest in their lives and watch them grow.



Lance 20 mo. - Ivy 5 mo.

Contrary to predictions that a difficult baby would follow a good baby, Ivy has matched Lance in cheerfulness and charm. By six weeks she was giving her mommy a full night's sleep, while her giggles and bubbles have daddy twisted around her little finger. Lance started cruising at the first of the year and now



Lance walking on his first birthday

We watched God be glorified several times in our extended family. March brought a new nephew on the Cahill side when little Oliver was born. In May, Amy's grandma died and a quick trip to Portland, TX was made to attend the funeral. Her life was a testimony of walking with the Lord and her death a celebration of better things to come. Six weeks later, Amy's sister, Lori, was matched with a godly man while Brian, Amy, Lance and 2 week old Ivy witnessed the vows. Dec 5th welcomes yet another couple to the ranks of married siblings; Brian's older sister Kim. Our family spent 5 days with the Cahill family over Thanksgiving and anticipate a week with Amy's family for Christmas. What a blessing to have such a relationship with our parents!



Lance loves fire trucks!



Mission San Juan

God has provided time to rest and relax with two fun vacations to make our year special. The first was a “baby-moon” in March – Amy wanted to go somewhere before she got “too fat” with the pregnancy. We left Lance with Amy's parents and spent a few days in San Antonio, enjoying the River Walk and taking a 25 mile bike tour of the five missions. In October we joined Brian's family at a state park in Indiana where we enjoyed biking, hiking, an indoor pool and the fall leaves. The trip was made special when Amy's sister, Stacie, joined us, lending a hand with the kids and enriching the conversation. We were also able to visit several

families on our way there and back, enjoying different styles of hospitality.

As Brian's work and school load backed off in January we were free to step up our involvement at church. In January we took on the 5th grade Sunday School class; the story of Samson was a big hit with the boys as we learned to plan enough activities to keep them busy. Amy's preschool choir learned hymns and character songs for their performance in May. We pulled out of both teaching roles over the Summer in anticipation of our new baby, then had a baby dedication for both children. After things settled down into a new routine, we joined the church choir in time to practice for their Christmas cantata. Brian was honored with a nomination for Deacon at our church and was ordained in October.



Ivy can roll over and sit up!

Another opportunity to pass on God's bounty was found in our apartment complex. First, a prayer for a friend was answered when Amy met a stay-at-home mom who babysits twins around Lance's age. Jenifer has been a great encouragement to Amy through her availability, joyful outlook on life and creative ideas. Lance and the twins enjoyed play dates at the park all summer and were often joined by another mom and her young son. Two months ago some of the neighbor kids started hanging out at our place. They loved to do whatever Amy was doing – be it peel potatoes, iron clothes or play with “the babies.” Amy sees them as her “Backyard Bible Club” and has them memorize scripture in order to get special treats.



Grilling hamburgers for dinner turned into a marshmallow roast.

They've made pizza, used Lance to make a “Zacchaeus” movie, gone to the zoo, and discussed heaven and hell. Amy has many plans for December, including an advent story and making cookies for several other neighbors.

Why has life been so peaceful? Perhaps we are gaining strength for a future battle, or maybe God has just delighted in giving good things to His children. Either way, we end this year feeling calm and refreshed No matter what the new year holds, we know that “the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord...and none of them shall slide.” May God's favor rest on you!



At the park with Landon and Addison

Merry Christmas!



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