

## Brian and Amy's Christmas Newsletter 2010



Camping in Tyler

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. - Hebrews 11:6*

Greetings once again from the Cahill family! Looking back on our year has presented a struggle for us as we try to pinpoint amazing feats of God in our life. However the theme for this year seems to be taken from the “faith chapter” of the Bible – Hebrews 11. The chapter begins with this statement: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Our year has been a walk of faith because it seems like everything we have pursued has yet to come about. We have also grappled with testing on our convictions, questions of life direction and, for Amy, the elusive triumph over potty training.



Visiting the Creation Museum

and more attractive to get out of the apartment for a weekend and visit grandparents. Besides being a place of excitement and adventure for the kids, it also provides for quality babysitting while Mom and Dad take a little time away! We enjoyed camping at Tyler State park in April and a trip to San Antonio, Brenham and the Blue Bell Creamery in May. In August we left the kids with Brian's parents for a week while we traveled to Pennsylvania to attend the wedding of Amy's brother.

A major thrust this year has been hunting for a house. After coming close to getting a house early in the year, the Lord closed the door and we have continued to look. We are wanting a bigger than average yard so we can grow a garden and the kids can play outside. There is also a desire to be close to Brian's work so he has more time to spend with family. Meeting these two objectives in the middle of DFW has proved to be more of a challenge than we thought.

Travel has been a big part of our year. With two little kids it becomes more



Making volcanoes at “Camp Grammy”



Just like Daddy!

Brian has traveled quite a bit with work as well. He logged four trips to Houston while setting up a disaster recovery data center. As part of these trips, Amy was able to visit her family, Brian's sister who lived in Houston and even the data center itself to see Brian's work and “help” him install several servers. Updating TV station networks at work also kept Brian on the road. His travels included New York, Missouri and Arkansas. During these trips Amy has taken to the road as well visiting friends and family.

Brian again taught Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace course at church in the Spring. Amy took on 5<sup>th</sup> grade for VBS during the summer and this fall we are attending a parenting class on Wednesday nights. At the beginning of January Amy started Bible Study Fellowship and has greatly enjoyed the study as well as the fellowship with other ladies. The kids are given good Bible training in childcare and love attending as much as Amy.

Amy has continued to find outreach opportunities at home. In March, her friend Jennifer moved but started coming to church and still gets together for play dates during the week. Once school started she had opportunity to invest in the kids downstairs by picking them up from school and watching them several times a week. In an effort to mesh the interests of toddlers with a 6 and 8-year-old we cooked, played with blocks and made a “bat-mobile” out of a cardboard box. Amy and two other mothers from church decided to read and discuss a book on being a good wife. She also hosts Brian's grandparents for dinner most weeks.



4<sup>th</sup> of July 5k



Record snow in February



Lance's birthday cake

**Lance (2 ½)** continues in his role as a helper. Whenever Daddy is doing a project Lance is right there beside him. We recently got him a dust buster to clean up after meals, and he is so thorough that the battery runs down before he finishes. He enjoys playgrounds, music, bath time, jumping off the couch, pointing out airplanes and cooking with Mom. Fire trucks are his biggest fascination and we toured a fire station for his second birthday. He has started to really talk and it's fun to hear his view on life. He is also very good at letting Ivy know about the rules of the house, as well as keeping Mom and Dad in line.

**Ivy (18mo.)**, went from crawling, to walking to running in an effort to keep up with her brother. She's doing such a good job and they are so close in size (one inch and one pound apart) that Amy is constantly asked if they are twins. She started the year eating rice cereal and now eats just about anything – her favorite being fruit. Over the summer we took full advantage of the kiddie pool and discovered that not only does Ivy love the water but she has no fear – keeping us constantly on the watch. Like a girl, Ivy has no trouble expressing herself. She talks almost as much as Lance and her longest sentence is “Happy Birthday Daddy!” She has Amy's looks and personality – less princess and more tomboy.



Ivy loved the beach!!

Early in the year we decided to add another member to our family and by April Amy was able to announce that the next Cahill was on the way, due Thanksgiving day. Pregnancy treated her fairly well and besides being constantly hungry and sometimes tired, she suffered few other side effects. Having two toddlers kept Amy fit and she was able to continue jogging all the way into her 9<sup>th</sup> month.



Dressing like cows to get free Chick-fil-a

Thanksgiving day came and went with no baby but that night Amy experienced some warm-up labor. Friday night around 10:30 things started in earnest, by 4:00AM we called our midwife and at 5:02AM **Flora Gene** made her entrance into the world, caught by her daddy. She was a cute little 6lbs. 8oz. and 19in. long. She is a quiet, laid back little baby, happy with whatever is going on. Brian's mom took the other two kids for a week and the new



Precious gift

parents were able to enjoy a restful time of bonding with each other and their little girl.

When discussing names for our coming child, we never could settle on a girl's name that seemed right. Due to so many uncertainties about our future, and issues we wrestled with during the year, we were strongly considering the name Faith as a testimony of what God was teaching us as we waited on His timing. However, when our little daughter arrived, we decided to look ahead in faith and claim a promise of God for our future. Flora means “flourishing” and we are beginning to see the Lord causing us to prosper here in Dallas. Our verse for her proclaims that “those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13). We know that as we keep our feet in the house of God and live our lives according to His direction then we will experience His bounty.



Our flourishing family

We hope that you too can find your way to the courts of God and praise Him for the work you are experiencing in your life, even if the results are yet to come.

**Merry Christmas!**



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