

## Cahill Family Newsletter – 2013

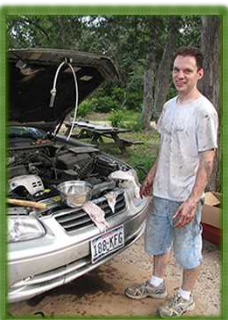
*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30*



New Year greetings from the Cahill family! We would like to share a small slice of a very full year! 2013 was a time of changes and hard work, productivity and stress. Yet in the midst of it all, we have surprisingly found rest.

The year started with our family of six sharing a room at Amy's parents as work on our dream home moved it towards habitability. Brian struggled under a load of house decisions, research, and adjusting to his new job.

Amy battled a new inner enemy of fear. Being so close to a long desired goal, news of politics and economy caused worry that somehow our dream would be snatched away. Amy found rest through memorizing Romans chapters 1 and 8 and pulling away from Facebook to focus on the people around her. She later was able to give testimony on the importance of taking thoughts captive and battling for the mind to a group of girls attending a survival camp.



**Radiator replacement**

In March the long-awaited day arrived! Following a flurry of activity and numerous hours of painting, finishing cabinets and coordinating contractors, we deemed the house livable. With one working bathroom and plywood floors and counter tops, we packed our clothes and bedding for the long move across yards into our very own house! After arranging a few more finishing touches (like the kitchen sink!) Brian was able to find some rest from making decisions as we took a break and let building activity slow down for a while.

As Brian worked out the kinks in smaller, less visible house projects, Amy struggled with impatience for progress. Brian started to feel worn from planning, searching for supplies, and building. He was also running into issues with a data migration project at work. Amy started praying specifically for him each morning, that the Lord would encourage his spirit and give him creativity. Brian continued to press on at work: implementing hardware changes, virtualization, application upgrades, and preparation for an ERP migration. On the home front, Amy learned to submit her expectations to God and be content, watching each goal gain priority and get completed as Brian worked on flooring, custom shelving, Formica, electrical and plumbing projects.



**Brian dug a 150 ft. irrigation trench for our peach trees**



**Amy and her paint crew**

All summer we worked hard, but as fall approached, we were wearing out. The children needed constructive attention and Amy was well into her 5<sup>th</sup> pregnancy. We had to find a new work-life balance. Amy looked into schooling options and followed Brian's advice to forgo a number of activities in town, finding rest with focus on fewer things. Those things included starting a homeschool co-op, daily Bible reading with the kids, milking goats, and practicing hospitality. We also made Sunday a family day, and purposed to take a break from house projects. We made use of our intercom system by listening to sermons. Brian would do a Bible story and activity with the kids before lunch and during afternoon naps we would do the homework for a church plant Bible study we were attending. The break in pace was so restful we realized the beauty of God's command to spend a day away from work.



**Easiest floor ever?**



**45 quarts of applesauce and 32 weeks pregnant**

Relief has also come in the form of extended family. Brian's parents have stepped in to help by watching the kids while we attended a homeschool conference, moved in, spent a weekend on a tile project and enjoyed time with the new baby. Amy's family created fun projects for the kids, dropped in to do housework and babysat while we enjoyed a weekend in Fredericksburg with Amy's sister.



Seahorse party

**Lance (5)** – Spent the year reveling in the outdoors and honing his gross motor skills. He and Ivy moved from tricycles to bicycles (with training wheels), riding ahead on our family walks. He loves obstacle courses, our trampoline and hammering nails. Quite the nature guy, Lance enjoys gardening, collecting seeds, gathering wild edible plants with his uncle, catching bugs and digging in the sandbox. He takes a hands-on approach to learning, has discovered Legos, enjoys AWANA Sparks and has a big sense of humor.



Built a Tabernacle while reading through the Old Testament

**Ivy (4)** – Has turned into a competent mommy's helper. She can do the barn chores, take charge of siblings, sweep, mop, vacuum, fold clothes and clean the bathroom. She cheerfully volunteers to help with almost anything and often self-starts, much to the amazement of her mother. In school she quickly picks up letters and concepts and has taken up drawing people and animals. She enjoys tea time with mom and dressing to match.



Baby goats!

**Flora (3)** – Our princess in training loves pink, cupcakes and changing outfits. Scissors seem to hold a certain fascination and she has given herself 3 new hairstyles this year. An expanding vocabulary gave her a place in imaginary games with Lance and Ivy. In school, every letter we tried to learn somehow changed to "F" for Flora. She still likes zebras and we are on our second attempt to hatch black-and-white-striped chicks for her birthday. Flora has freckles, twinkling blue eyes and loves to give an encouraging word.

**Eden (21 mo.)** – is a bundle of blonde curls, smiles and enthusiasm. She wants to be in the thick of everything: school with the older kids, "helping" Daddy with work projects, and going potty - just like everyone else. Super observant, Eden often gets into big messes like trying to clean up her own accidents or dunking cloth diapers in the toilet. Her first word was "uh-oh" as she dropped a cereal bowl, but since then her vocabulary has quickly increased with the help of her siblings.



**Iris Katie** – barely made it in the newsletter. After two nights of warm-up labor that would abate during the day, our fourth little girl was born at 7:22 on the morning of December 11<sup>th</sup>. At 8 lb 4 oz and 20.5 in long, she holds the title of our biggest baby, and her home birth was thankfully uneventful. We look forward to the coming year of discovering our new daughter.



Helping Dad fix the dishwasher

As the New Year starts we exhort you to embrace the work God has for you, finding rest as you drop your personal "to-do" list and let Him order your priorities.

### The Cahills

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Rappelling at girls survival camp



Visiting Grandpa at the beach!