



Mount Evans

Cahill Family Newsletter - 2015

*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
Matthew 22:37-40*

Hello friends. Thank you for joining us as we relive the highlights of the year. Relationships have been our theme and we have enjoyed the time spent with many of you. As a couple we tend to strive for excellence, but sometimes miss the person for the project. In order to regain focus we lowered the priority of house projects and turned our attention to relationships with God, our family and those around us.

We started the year by hosting a couples' study in our home reading "His needs Her needs." Our group learned the importance of investing in your spouse and keeping their "love bank" account in the black. In the fall Amy made new friends while studying the Armor of God and Brian started a morning study for men. We have also enjoyed reading about God's "Crazy Love" with a couples group from a local church. Amy continues to host a weekly co-op where she teaches preschool subjects and a Junior Master Gardener class. These activities have allowed for multiple touch points in the lives of those around us.



Yellow jacket exterminators

During a family conference this spring we were encouraged to draw near to God, not just his rules. Afterwards, Brian's parents watched the children while we enjoyed a weekend getaway. In October, Lance, Ivy and Skye accompanied us on a trip to Denver to visit family with the intention to pursue relationship and provide encouragement.



Camping while 8 months pregnant

Although many evenings and weekends were spent with others, we still managed to put in some time on our house. Our first big project was putting rock on the fireplace. Next, the girls closet received shelves, while another room gained a counter and cabinets to create a home office. Lastly, an assignment from a marriage book turned our attention to the master bedroom where fence boards were used to create a headboard, window decorations and bathroom décor.

At work Brian devised a custom digital sign with an intuitive interface, tweaked the virtual desktop environment, rolled out an improved thin client and negotiated a large discount on a printer contract. Additionally, Brian's creativity combined with Amy's patient beta testing produced an energy efficient Linux home computer which powers three terminals.



Spring planting

As a Dad, Brian constructed AWANA cars, enjoyed family outings to museums and the zoo, created birthday treasure hunts and led Bible times. He consistently called the kids out to live life alongside him while gardening, working in the barn or tackling a house project. Brian is grappling with the endless possibilities of how God works, which tend to conflict with the orderly religious box where he is more comfortable. He has also been working to comprehend the personal relationship God desires to have with him.

As demands of farm and family life increase, Amy struggles to balance responsibility and ministry while fatigue is a common companion. She is learning to seek direction from Brian as he looks out for her well-being. A book on women of faith encouraged her that it's not as much what is done *by* you as what is done *in* you.

Quiet mornings find Amy, cup of tea in hand, searching out the aspects of love from 1 Corinthians 13. What started out as methodical observations changed as she began to experience God's vast love and attempt to return it. She shared with Brian her growing desire for God and they sought prayer for the filling of the Spirit. Through this she realized that God has given her the gift of faith, inspiring the theme for next year's study.



Removed three trees close to the house



Triple-decker water slide

Lance (7) – Collector. Ever observant of the details, Lance finds 'treasure' everywhere. Rocks, shells, money, trinkets and anything shiny find their way into his room. He had a proud moment losing his first tooth, which he ecstatically exchanged for pennies. His compassionate nature is expressed in the way he plays with the babies and cares for the chickens. Other interests include pirates, dragons, gold, weapons, wrestling, costumes and creative projects.



Milk jug igloo for school

Ivy (6) – Change. Rapid movement through clothing sizes, milestones, achievements and abilities describes Ivy's year. She reads well and writes on any acceptable surface. She took on the challenge of laundry and loves the power of operating the machines. Ivy is an adept mother's helper, getting her sisters through the shower or changing the baby on her own initiative. Losing teeth and growing out her bangs contribute to a new look. Some things remain the same: she loves to color, play with the animals and spend quality time with people.



Tinker Bell, Peter Pan and Tiger Lilly

Flora (5) – Tenacious. This little girl has surprised us by moving from 'la-la land' to focus and determination. She gained competency in household chores like sweeping and cleaning the bathroom. This summer she displayed an ability to read, started on the 100 lessons book and is already halfway through. Good words delight her heart as do ponies, tea parties, dress up and crafts.



Eden (3) – Mystery. Eden is transitioning from the toddler ever at our sides to one of the big kids. She plays by herself quite a bit and no longer practices her growing vocabulary through constant conversation with us. We are curious to see how this internally developing personality emerges over the next few years. She exercises her sharp memory with Scripture, school and songs. Bright smiles and bouncy enthusiasm flow out of her as she delights in dolphins, lady bugs, sparkly shoes and pretty dresses.



Iris (2) – Again. Iris is a clever and persistent over comer which translates into watchfulness and consistency on the part of her parents. A clingy personality and high drive to interact with her world produced a delightful mother's helper. She even starred in a home movie inspired by the more viral video "why moms get nothing done" (check out *May 23* on the blog). Iris is mostly potty trained, loves baby dolls, cooking, dirt and the automatic waterer we installed for the goats.



Skye Kristine (6 mo.) – Laughter. On the evening of May 30th, a precious little girl beat the midwife and was delivered by her daddy in the living room. Our sixth blessing is a contented, happy baby with a strong social bent. She vocalizes purposefully to get attention and laughs at her siblings' attempts to entertain. Her name was picked from Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands.* Our prayer is that her life would bring glory to the God who created her. Many thanks to Brian and the family and friends who took on the load of housework and childcare while Amy recovered.

Raising children definitely has a cost in time, energy, finances and emotional interaction. But we find over and over again that our God of unlimited resources provides what is needed. Even as we invested in relationships, we have been humbled by the way others poured into us. We encourage you to take time for relationships this Christmas season, remembering that God sent His son because he desires a relationship with us.



Re-visiting engagement location

The Cahills

Brian@cahills.us Amy@cahills.us

www.cahills.us/blog