

Cabill Family Newsletter - 2019



Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58

Greetings friends, neighbors and family. Every year we brainstorm through life events, preparing to write this newsletter. This year our list seemed like just a bunch of “stuff.” Discouraged, Amy sat looking at a blank document asking, who cares? A verse she had been praying encouraged waiting on the Lord, so

Amy asked for His help and waited expectantly. The next morning the Lord brought the above verse to mind, giving perspective on life. So how did that play out in our year?

Steadfast: Brian demonstrates this quality as he lives out his calling as:

A husband: The marriage relationship has always been first priority in Brian’s life. He makes time for Amy every day, doing Bible study together, listening to her ideas and going on walks. He shares his innovations, plans, frustrations and ponderings with her, placing value on her open ear and seeking her perspective. To facilitate couple time, the kids are being trained to operate as a team. Brian and Amy will have a dinner date in the back room, while they feed themselves, do their evening chores, and if all goes well, settle in for a movie as a reward.

A father: Brian loves his role as a Dad. He actively participates in childcare, and watches the occasional sick kid so the rest of the family can attend classes. Home projects come to life as kids are brought along to help and learn physics as Brian explains how things work. He continues Daddy Fun Day with Bible study, allowance, active play and games. When Amy hits a child training challenge, Brian is an excellent resource for ideas and is fair and consistent in his enforcement of family rules.

A provider: Brian handles his work world in the same methodical manner as he handles the rest of life. He has a long range plan and works steadfastly step by step to reach his goals. The work library has provided excellent reading material with *Good to Great* and it’s “Flywheel” concept being a favorite. On the homefront Brian assists the family through streamlining or automating tasks from cow milking to dishes and vacuuming.

A leader: Brian has continued to represent our neighborhood in meetings with the County. He and Amy read “Never Split the Difference” together to learn about negotiating. Combining insights from this book with his research has provided new strategies.



The boys love the electric mower!



“Ms. Viola” and “little Alfred” new additions to the farm!



New concrete!

Sprinklers for garden added to home automation.



May couple
getaway to
Houston

Houston Zoo trip
part of land
animal science.



Unmoveable: Amy walked through several trials of hurt that seemed to come directly from the Lord. She wrestled with her faith, trying to discern what was a promise of God and what remained as human responsibility. As she sought the Lord in her struggles, Amy was shown that the underlying current of her life was unmoveable resolve to follow God in the face of doubt, fear, mistrust and anger. Most notably this has played out as Amy pushed through the hurt by purposefully

loving others instead of focusing on herself.

On the motherhood front, Amy moved into a new season of life - neither pregnant nor nursing! She took the opportunity of having her body to herself to do a parasite cleanse and take some stronger herbs that would hopefully bring hormonal balance and fight back at the depression that continued to drag her down. She also sought out a practitioner to address a persistent ache in her shoulders and neck that resulted from years of holding little ones. Over a few months, things leveled out remarkably and she rejoiced in the new energy and less cloudy days, until one beautiful month there was no depression at all! Hope was high as Amy felt like herself again.

This bright period was short-lived and despite preventative efforts, Amy found herself pregnant again. Hormones surged wildly and the depression came back with a crushing weight. A new supplement took the edge off the physical grip of depression, allowing mental energy to endure the emotions of pregnancy. She is 6 months into this journey and 2020 will hold many challenges. Amy took to reading missionary biographies for renewed vision and really enjoyed her summer reading of *Sacred Influence* - an encouraging look on the impact of the wife.



Hitting the waves in Corpus!

Always abounding in the work of the Lord: Besides the physical effort of raising a family, our main calling is discipling and teaching. This plays out in a large way as we homeschool our children. Each year holds a different focus as we adjust to the needs and abilities of the various children along with Amy's capabilities in each season. The first half of the year saw us finishing our focus on ships and the explorers that used them. A side unit on pirates proved quite popular and science went over all the swimming creatures. Studies culminated with a family vacation to Corpus Christi! The trip

included fun at the beach, the Texas State Aquarium, touring the USS Lexington and walking along the harbor to view boats.



Christmas trip to
Dallas Creation
museum;
Ft. Worth Mint,
Stockyards and
water gardens.



Waco children's
museum



Arrg! Come hunt treasure with us!



Our friends from India



Impromptu neighborhood circus.

Amy's Mom runs a themed "Camp Grammy" each year for the grandkids. With China as the subject, it kicked off a neighborhood summer co-op going over the geography and cultures of Asia. In the fall we joined a local homeschool co-op emphasizing writing and science for the older kids with electives for the younger ones. Amy loves teaching PE to 2nd and 3rd graders and is grateful that the little ones are getting focused input.

We enjoyed practicing hospitality with our children as participants along side of us. This included a continued relationship with our friends from Iraq as well as other students from Brazil, China, and India. A number of Brian's co-workers and their families were also able to visit over a meal and see the "farm."

Amy ran a small prayer group over the summer, and shares the ministry of friendship with several moms outside the neighborhood. She also asked the Lord for a specific prayer target, choosing a new verse each week to pray over the individual when pregnancy seems to overwhelm. Many of the activities bring benefits to us along with those we touch - part of the joy of giving!



Bee keeper!

Lance (11): Quiet, dependable and orderly. He can detail clean a car, put on a magic show, scramble eggs for the family and keep cousins spellbound for hours with his storytelling. He began a beekeeping class this fall, working towards hive ownership next spring! A love of obstacle courses inspired his 11th birthday as we assembled a massive challenge for everyone to enjoy. PE classes in our co-op have opened up the world of team sports where Lance discovered he likes hockey.

Ivy (10) : Strong, outgoing and adaptable. Ivy has made great strides in animal care, joining Brian in the challenge of hand milking an uncooperative cow then learning to operate a milking machine. She forges ahead on her own with school work as soon as she learns what is expected.

She is a voracious reader, especially enjoying the *Redwall* series. A natural leader, Ivy organizes the cousins in their play, learning lessons in people skills along the way.

Flora (9): Contemplative, encouraging and stable. Flora is a good friend and listener. She has a sharp memory, easily recalling details from our science reading or Bible study. By managing the fireplace, Flora is keeping the family warm this winter. New interests she has pursued include sewing, piano, Kiwi Crate projects and reading mystery stories. Her favorite class in co-op is art.



Sampling Asian food.



Swim time with Dad!



Ocean diorama we made for science.

Eden (7): Smart, friendly and energetic. Eden has a black and white personality that see-saws between optimism and pessimism. She is adept in her school work and always eager to do more. Ryder has been adopted as her buddy and she cheerfully works through his sometimes reluctant attitude. A strategist in the making, Eden can hold her own in our favorite family game “Skull King.”

Iris (6): Confident, intuitive and compassionate. A lesson on the good Samaritan coupled with a first aid kit turned Iris into an emergency band-aid patrol. She set the record of earliest age to lose a tooth. Unloading the dishwasher has been mastered and she now manages lunch dishes with fortitude. She still loves art and has demonstrated

proficiency in her Spanish and Sign language classes. Reading has been tackled head on and she is excited to be earning prizes!

Skye (4): Feisty, but flighty. Our littlest girl tackles each new skill with determination, mastering a strider bike and learning to swim. Her chore time efforts have been upgraded to clearing the table after each meal, with an emphasis on completing the task with minimal distraction. She plays with Iris while Mom schools the big kids and has enjoyed preschool activities in her co-op classes.

Garrison (3): Talkative, enthusiastic and helpful. Our self-proclaimed “BIG MAN” adores the letter ‘G’ and his strider bike or “motorcycle.” He participated in Aunt Katie’s weekly preschool class absorbing stories, activities and cousin time! Determined to “swim like the big kids” he started putting his face in the water and kicking around in his floats and now can swim across the pool by himself. Garrison celebrated his 3rd birthday with a train party.

Ryder (18 mo): Winsome, determined and drooling. Our little guy went from crawling to running, and progressed through communication strategies from crying to signing to talking. Machinery and noises fascinate Ryder with some of his favorites being the blender and impact driver. This interest has resulted in a compulsion to create copies on the printer when left alone. Ryder likes to snuggle on Mom’s shoulder, has graduated from a pacifier, began potty training and is learning to play trains with Garrison.

Our labor is not in vain in the Lord: As we look at our life from a short term perspective, it can feel somewhat discouraging due to slow progress or seemingly small output. However, we know that every setback or trial in fulfilling our callings are really opportunities for growth if we turn to the Lord. We try to keep in mind that life is not about accomplishments but relationships and what we learn as we continue on our journey. We pray that the Lord will bless you with joy and endurance in the coming year.

