

Cahill Family Newsletter - 2012

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Greetings family and friends! The end of the year finds us in a whole new set of circumstances. Our journey has been both exciting and difficult, full of twists and surprises. So read on as we look back and realize what God has done in our hearts and lives!



Dragon slayers!

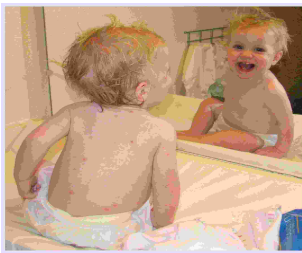
Amy became adept at making up activities for unit studies with the kids. She also planned and coordinated a week long Castle Camp for a group of friends – each mother planning and hosting a half day of medieval-themed activities like grape stomping, water balloon catapults and a cardboard box dragon!



Little angel

In the housing department, we added one more occupant to the apartment in late March. Eden Naomi Cahill was born March 24th at 7pm. She arrived earlier than expected, giving her parents an exciting midnight drive from Bryan back to Dallas. At 7lbs. 7oz. she fit nicely into her little space in the kids room. After two years of searching, we found a house that fit our specifications, not far from Brian's work. We began to negotiate price and after Amy's Dad inspected and gave it the okay, we were ready to buy! Life was exciting! Life was going full steam ahead! Then an email from a contact made two years ago changed everything.

Brian was offered a job with Lynntech – located in the same town where Amy's parents live. Family relationships are a big part of our life and we were very excited about the opportunity. However, after working at Nexstar for five years, it was a tough decision to leave. After consideration and prayer, Brian turned in his notice and we switched gears.

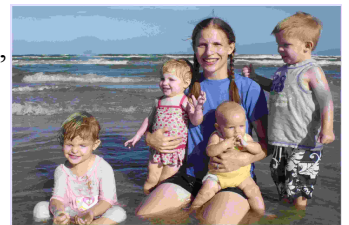


Chicken Pox!!

The next month was a whirlwind of preparation as we packed up our life in Dallas, looked for a temporary place to stay in Bryan and dusted off our house plans. Space was available in Amy's parents' house, and since we hoped to build nearby, we picked that as our base camp. Living at “Grammy's” house was a blast for the kids, and having extra hands around gave Amy a needed break – what a blessing!

We talked to a neighbor with land and began making plans to build. Dad and brothers were poised to help but we ran into county red tape over property size and sales on a private road. Somewhat discouraged, we hit the housing market all over again. It was fun to look at larger lots than could be had in the big city, but once again, finding what would work for our family was difficult.

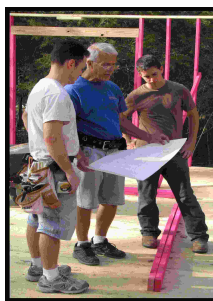
As Brian struggled to find his footing in the new job, and the stresses of all living in one room began to rise, it was tempting to wish we had just bought the house in Dallas and been done. During this time the Lord brought to mind the Exodus of the people of Israel from the land of Egypt. During their journey to the promised land, they became discouraged with the perils and the fact that they had seemingly less now than they did when they were slaves. We purposed not to wish ourselves “back to Egypt” but to look back at the amazing timing of our “exodus” knowing that God would work things out in His time.



Trip to the beach



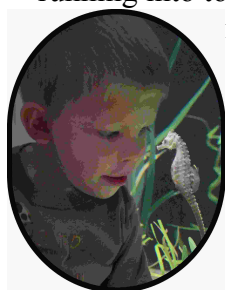
Sister stroller brigade



The new house!!



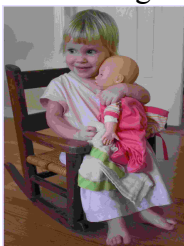
In the meantime we prepared. Brian poured over our house drawings with anyone who would look. As he worked, the lines slowly morphed into a good house, a better house and the perfect house! He was still making changes as we framed up the walls. We marched over several properties, pursuing all in hopes that one would come through. After several months, circumstances changed such that we were able to locate next door to Amy's parents. House location on the property was given the same careful thought as we picked no less than four sites for the house and finally settled on a fifth. Brian has really shone out as he researched every option from windows, to insulation to A/C systems. For her part, Amy tries to head up the aesthetics committee, running into town to look at interior surfaces whenever someone offers to watch the kids. Date nights are now mostly spent in hardware stores. Projected move-in is late February.



Seahorse Friend

Lance turned four this year with a dinosaur party. Typically he is a real thinker, and somewhat cautious, but bedtime stories portray him as Lance the brave – a character he has lived out on scary occasions like going through cold water at a splash pad, sitting in the dentist chair or climbing up a ladder with mommy. He loves playing games with Daddy and has a “tricky” side developing that leaves him laughing over his own cleverness. After learning about seeds and plants in a month-long unit, he continues to collect and identify seeds of all sorts as we roam around Grammy's farm. He started AWANAs along with Ivy this fall and loves every minute. He has great sweeping skills, loves catching toads, and always wants to help.

Ivy (3) is a whirlwind of change! At the beginning of the year, we despaired over the messes her inquisitive nature inflicted on family and friends. Now that active mind keeps Lance and her occupied for hours as they role play what they have learned. If you listen in, the input from family, Bible, story books and life mesh into hilarious renditions like the disciples welcoming a “friendly anteater” into the upper room. Ivy also plays well with babies, which is good considering five cousins were added within a year! She is generous, adventurous and wants to be a part of anything that is going on.



Little mommy

At two, **Flora** is a petite, pretty in pink, girly little fireball. Being small, she was carried everywhere – until her sister arrived. After a few weeks lamenting her loss of status as the baby, she tackled becoming a big kid with all her might. Her few words are turning into sentences, she tries hard to tag along with her older siblings and she is always hungry. Part of growing up is potty training and she decided to take that on right as we moved. Fortunately she excelled much quicker than her brother and sister.

Eden Naomi is our fresh face on the scene, and one that always has a smile! Her name appropriately means delightful and pleasant. She is a stocky little baby, full of determination – getting onto hands and knees at four months and crawling everywhere soon after. Since we moved, she has enjoyed playing with her cousin Greg on a daily basis, swapping pacifiers and raiding the pantry. Hardly ever still, she earned the nickname “squirmy” from her brother Lance. She also competes with Flora for the “grub worm” award on the job site.

Throughout this year we have learned that: “A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9). If your steps are directed our way in the coming year, please stop by and enjoy the hospitality of our new home.

The Cahills



Making PB&J



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