

Cahill Family Newsletter - 2014

*He that is faithful in that which is least,
is faithful also in much. Luke 16:10a*



Greetings dear friends, are you ready to navigate a year with us? Come find out about the little things that make up the whole of our life. Back in January, Amy picked a theme for the year to focus her Bible study and promote awareness in actions. The word was “least;” a year of learning about and doing the little things.

Our house project took a turn as we halted work on the inside and began closing off the crawl space. First, a number of outer piers had to be straightened. With an idea and a will, Brian used jacks to remove a single pier. Then a hole was dug, rebar added, pier leveled and concrete poured underneath. Each pier took most of a weekend and we did about 10 of them. After this, we poured concrete and built walls between each of the exterior piers. As we labored into the

summer Amy felt impatient with all of the details, just wanting to be done. She learned it was not so much the work done, but the heart behind it and the people involved. The children were part of the process, spraying water, scooping concrete, playing in the dirt and causing tools to disappear. Character was formed in some difficult and discouraging moments, and Brian's faithfulness in the details shone through, a trait that spills over into other areas of his life, like marriage and parenting.

We are now done just in time for the cold weather!



Pier Leveling

For Brian, work at Lynntech involved many small details. The year started out fixing bugs in a major system upgrade. Then the company was contracted to manage the local airport and Brian integrated the IT systems. The highlight of the year was setting up a virtual desktop with a custom Linux thin client. Brian meets weekly with a small group of men, working through Christian living books which Brian and Amy read together. This has provided fuel for many good conversations as we work through beliefs, practices and ideas. Together, they researched Catholicism, learning new things but finding rest in Christ's completed work in washing away the filth of our sins.



Dolphin show at Aquarium

With a new baby and many “least” people running around, I (Amy) had to shift my focus off of global issues and personally satisfying projects to care for little souls. I settled down to diapers, laundry, meals, teaching, chores and setting up routines. Hopefully, as I learn faithfulness in these smaller things of life, I can prepare myself for the challenges of discipleship. Midway through the year, I struggled with anger which was often provoked by doing these little tasks. As I searched for the cause, God's Spirit spoke through 1 Corinthians 13, which says if I do all these things “and do not have love, it profits me nothing.” So my

word for the coming year is “Love.” If you feel led to pray for me, ask the Lord to transform me through His love, so I can love others.

Another thing we have practiced this year is the idea of a Sabbath rest – a time set aside. House projects, social obligations and chores all stop for a day. Brian enjoys playing games with the kids, reading Bible devotions and taking family walks. Amy finds rest from the ever-present housework, able to say guilt-free, “That is not today's work, I will do that tomorrow.” There are also many opportunities to host other families for fellowship.

'Pumpkin' due June '15



Sunday reading with Dad

In school we continued our body systems unit study at home and a co-op in town. After a summer break, Amy knew she needed to keep things simple with a curriculum, a focus on reading and math and a goal to be consistent. Reading is learned by practicing at “least” a little each day. She planned a 7 week schedule, 6 weeks of school subjects, then a week “off” to do fun projects. “Off” weeks included a tea party, archery and a visit with Nana while Amy decorated bare walls and windows and Brian built a fireplace mantel.



First day of school

Lance (6) has come out in many ways this year. Spring saw him performing a clown act for his birthday guests. Summer produced an artistic bent that, while not prolific, is focused and detailed. The beginning of 'formal' school revealed a quiet competitiveness as he worked on his handwriting book every spare moment in order to beat his faster, but less calculating,



Ivy Baptism

sister. While blending sounds for reading and basic math concepts holds little interest, his imagination comes alive with whatever good story was last read. He likes fact books on Knights and Indians, and enjoyed our launch into chapter books. He also realized that helping Dad on projects often means staying up past bedtime and has become a dedicated little worker. He has many collections and plays for hours outside.

Proficient in verbal skills, **Ivy**, (5) enjoys trying out new words and other languages – often asking for “el helado.” Ivy is beginning to read, likes tea time with Mom, art, her stuffed horses and classes at Grammy's. Natural leadership skill and a big imagination helps her keep the peace among friends and siblings and create fun for everyone. She can run her sisters through bath time and handle most basic housework. Ivy's life took a new direction this summer when she repented of her sin and gave her life to Christ. She was baptized by her Dad in the swimming tank, surrounded by family and friends. She is learning to listen to the Lord, come to Him with problems and submit her passions to His control.

Flora (4) continues to prance through life as a Princess, wearing pretty dresses, headbands and beads. She has a princess puzzle she works repeatedly. As a quiet, compliant child she can tend to get overlooked so Amy gets special time with Flora by working in AWANA Cubbies.

Flora does school with the big kids, learning letters, scissor skills and how to write her name. She likes to do chores with Mom and takes care of the bunnies. Flora has many favorite stuffed animals and still drags around a pillow and blanket, “camping” in each room.

The nickname “Smiley Face” well suits our cheerful **Eden** (2), and her curly blonde hair brings many compliments. She LOVES to work in the kitchen, has a blankie, wants to play tackle, and cares for the chickens. She experienced a frustrating regression in potty training that had Amy near quitting, but finally succeeded. Her artistic talent has been tested out on many of the walls and books in the house. This tiny tot has a quick mind that picks up scripture. She can quote Psalm 23 and knows several hymns. When asked what she would like to tell the readers she said “Count your many blessings.”

Iris (1) has looks like her big sister Ivy, but a personality all her own. The year started out with frequent spit up, diaper rashes and a constant desire to be held. Learning to walk at 10 months made a dramatic difference as she can now toddle after her siblings and enjoy the excitement they generate. Chore time at the barn is the highlight of her day. She hates bath time, but loves to play in the sandbox and chew sticks. She celebrated her first birthday with cookies and caroling.

Be encouraged that each little thing you do is part of a greater whole. Things accomplished in our lives and in the lives of our children have been done “precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little” (Isaiah 28:10). It is fun to look back on a year, even as we look forward into the next.



Amy made quilt

The Cahills

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Grew a dozen watermelons!



Baby Moses movie