

## Cahill Family Newsletter 2023



It all started with prayer...or maybe the RV came first. The year began normally with work, school and farm life. Then a year-long hunt for an 11 person RV ended with a purchase just in time for a family conference. The conference encouraged us to really look at our prayer life. So we did. Starting small, Brian and Amy made it a point to be in prayer each morning, rotating between types of prayer and requests. The book 'Wrestling Prayer' encouraged us to set aside longer periods of time so we began to fast and pray on Sunday mornings. All of this had learning curves and details to smooth out, but we persisted. For a while, things seemed to go on like normal and then there was movement. It started in our own hearts, of course! When you ask for the Holy Spirit to work, He often starts close to home. Attitudes, actions, priorities, some forgiveness, and obedience were all addressed.

At the same time, other parts of life also started moving... Amy had a friend facing some tough stuff and the two of them began meeting for prayer. A Bible study on Wednesday nights provided opportunity for Group prayer. Brian found a chronological bible reading app to replace his news app and Amy enjoyed reading through the Bible. The kids were involved as we added family prayer time to our routine. Verses from our Romans 12 memory work were used to frame prayers for the day. Sometimes the renditions were quite entertaining, but it was encouraging to hear the word of God prayed over friends and cousins. A number of other books on prayer were also enjoyed. Then 4-5 major decisions popped up on our horizon. Each of these have been taken before the Lord and several are still in the process of determining God's direction. Prayer hasn't been an easy lesson, most of the time change comes when we get to the point of feeling discouraged then get real and totally lay out our current concern before God. But we've found encouragement in others who are willing to take an hour and pray with us.



Road Sinkhole

One of our prayer projects has gone like this: For a year we had been petitioning God for justice in the situation with our road. Suddenly the dam broke (or at least, the road washed out) and we had a flood of activity. A call to report the situation was escalated to 911 bringing out emergency vehicles, news reporters and an offer of evacuation. The next day a group of neighbors joined us at Commissioners court to present our case. We brought along a recently finished opinion from a survey professor stating the section of road in question was county property. Our evidence was dismissed as irrelevant. This kicked off five weeks of commissioners court presentations outlining our case along with multiple news stories. It was exciting yet stressful. The county held firm and continued to deny responsibility. So, we've continued to lift up



Concrete Kicks Off Deck Project After 5 Years Of Planning

the situation in prayer; sometimes excited, sometimes discouraged, calling on God for each new step. Recently, a law school evaluated our situation and noted that while we had a valid case it would be political more than anything else. Then a request for County records did not excite the County and they asked the Attorney General to classify the information. We are awaiting a decision on the records and rejoice in each

new layer of proof and turn again to God with each new obstacle that looms ahead. If you want to learn more, visit [rescuegreenleaf.com](http://rescuegreenleaf.com).



Father/Son  
Obstacle Race



Fulfilled Dream of  
Raising Lab Puppies

**Lance** (15) saw a lot of changes this year. He started a routine of supplements along with a new reading program. One supplement in particular helped his struggle with anger. The reading program had initial progress then stalled out, leading to some formal testing and a Dyslexia diagnosis. An impacted tooth led to braces in October. On the practical side of life, Lance made money cleaning apartments, conquered rappelling, started working out and made it to the top of an obstacle course climbing rope. He has also invested in his little brothers; sword fighting, jumping on the trampoline and teaching them games.

**Ivy** (14) spends a lot of time reading. She tackled classics like Ben Hur (revised), The Robe, Little Women, The Hobbit and To Kill a Mockingbird. She enjoys crafting using Pinterest for ideas; UV Resin, Diamond art, Perler beads, and pencil sketches. Her computer skills have grown and she enjoys shopping online and listing items that Mom needs to sell. Ivy has a real knack for decorating and loves to make birthdays feel festive. She is also a master at planning, coordinating and executing party games



Riven Game Highlighted  
Ivy's Problem Solving Skills

**Flora** (13) has been 'faithful in much' this year. Moving into middle school came with more homework but she met the challenge with tenacity, completing her assignments with punctuality. She is taking her turn milking the cow, which is no small job! She is attentive to the potential issues in the barn and is often able to troubleshoot and fix things. She loves audio books and listened to several classics that Ivy read and then they watched the movies along with mom. In the Fall she joined the teen girls group at Bible study. Flora was thrilled to get her ears pierced as a 13 year old rite of passage.



Cousins Host Ladies  
Tea For 13th Birthday



Amy's Rose Bush In Full Bloom

**Eden** (11) branched out in many areas this year. She took on extra writing to share science reports with peers in co-op. After a cooking class she has diligently applied herself in the kitchen and now handles the cookies, muffins and ferments for our family. Her helper is Ryder and she has patiently trained him until he can handle several of the jobs by himself while she volunteers to make a second item. After showing herself diligent in practicing violin, she started with a teacher this fall and has made excellent progress. She even put together a concert for the family, getting her Uncle Dan and Nana to accompany.



Searching For  
Treasures At Beach  
Camp Grammy

**Iris** (10) is gaining confidence in the kitchen. She teams up with Eden to prepare breakfast for the family and frequently makes ice cream with our fresh cream. New desks allowed her to join the independent learners in the study room. She started typing lessons and had her first taste of writing class this fall. Reading moved up a level with an adventure series teaching creation apologetics. She is always leaving little notes of encouragement around the house.

**Skye** (8) attended a VBS themed on Pilgrim's Progress with her siblings this summer. After the last day, a fight opened a conversation about the burden of sin and how to get rid of it. Skye had always been somewhat resistant to talking about the gospel but with the analogies from VBS fresh in her mind she was ready to surrender and let Jesus do His work. The change in her was immediate and sustained. She loves using her new Bible, eagerly participates in praying for others and desires to share her newfound joy.



**Garrison** (7) embodies boyhood. He loves to bike, swim, jump on the trampoline and play Nerf war with his brothers. Whatever he does, he is 'all in' especially if it involves mud. A face dive into some bleachers resulted in four stitches. His protective side came out when he pinned down another boy who picked on Ace. Curiosity landed him in multiple cactus spine encounters on our camping trip but he bounced back and enjoyed rappelling and building dams in the rocky stream. Naturally bright, he finishes his school in no time and is off to the next adventure.



Footprints  
At  
Dinosaur  
Valley

Lost 7  
Teeth



Loves The  
New Cat -  
Poppy

**Ryder** (5) made a dramatic change early in the year. Amy's research into diet and supplements for Lance led her to put Ryder on a specific probiotic to help his attitude. She was amazed as a six month battle over his chore dissolved in two weeks. A happy, lovable little boy has emerged who goes out of his way to give a big hug and say "I love you, Mom!" Ryder is a focused, self starter who pursues learning with a "need to know" attitude. When his barn chore involved writing the egg count on the calendar he announced "Mom, we found 22 eggs, but I don't know how to write a two, I need you to teach me." The next day Amy showed him how to write '2' and left him to himself. He studiously practiced and now confidently records the eggs.



Pirate  
Day At  
Beach  
Camp  
Grammy

**Ace** (3) is the little tag-along. Everybody loves him and he just assumes that he is invited to whatever is going on. He loves to sing and often gets a very serious face when belting out some tune or another. Since Ryder graduated to big kid games, Ace often feels left out but enjoys bringing his spot-it game to Dad who can play two games at once.



50th Anniversary Skit For Brian's Parents



Biome Project For Earth Science



Games In The RV



Washington Crossing The Delaware



Everyone Loves Rappelling



Enchanted Rock Expedition



History Class Cookie Colosseum