

The Sorensen Family:

The Sorensens have had a great summer. Here's a run-down:

In June it was great to see everybody at the wedding and farewell. Then the kids and I went to Aaron's Mom's. His dad passed away so we stayed there for the funeral. We had our second rodeo. Jaxon does barrels, poles, calf tying and breakaway roping. Jancy does barrels, poles, goat tying and breakaway roping. Broox does barrels, poles stick-horse barrels, dummy roping, goat ribbon pull and mutton busting. Dixon does barrels (on his horse!) and all the other events that Broox does. The kids did well. Jaxon went to scout camp for a week and Aaron was able to go with him for a few days. Jaxon said it was really boring but he got a lot of merit badges passed off.

On the third of July we watched the fireworks show that is put on by a member of the church. He does such a good job. We went to a parade on the 4th. We had another rodeo. I got to go to court. As a neighborhood we have a problem with a scary guy who drives slowly by the house several times a day. The neighbors went to court and we had a restraining order put on him. Aaron's mom came for a visit and took Jaxon and Broox home with her for a week and a half. They worked hard and were glad to be home. Aaron went on a Pioneer Trek with our stake. They each got a name of someone in the Martin or Willey companies and they got to walk for that person. Aaron's name was Daniel Jones. They walked 26 miles in 2 days. We got to spend a week at the fair. Jaxon and Jancy each took a steer. We had to feed and take care of them every morning and night. They were able to sell them on Saturday. Prices were down a little from last year.

For Amberly's 9th birthday (Aug. 9) we got some tubes and went floating down the canal. That was fun. I had my 35th birthday (Aug. 11) and we had our 14th Anniversary (same day). This Saturday we have our final rodeo and the kids start school on the 25th.

Overall it has been a great summer. Our garden is okay, but not great yet. Our grass is spotty but growing. We are enjoying our house. Aaron likes his job okay. The kids are all doing great. We love you all!



Picture at the reunion in Marysvale. We missed the Sorensens and others who couldn't make it!!

New addresses:

Larry & Jill Burnett & Family
3064 E. Hackamore
Mesa, AZ 85204

Leslie & Greg Wilson & Family
263 S. 4th E.
Rexburg, ID 83440

Elder Cory Pierson
Virginia Richmond Mission
9327 Midlothian Tpke Ste 1-B
Richmond, VA 23235-4944

Lawson & Kelly:

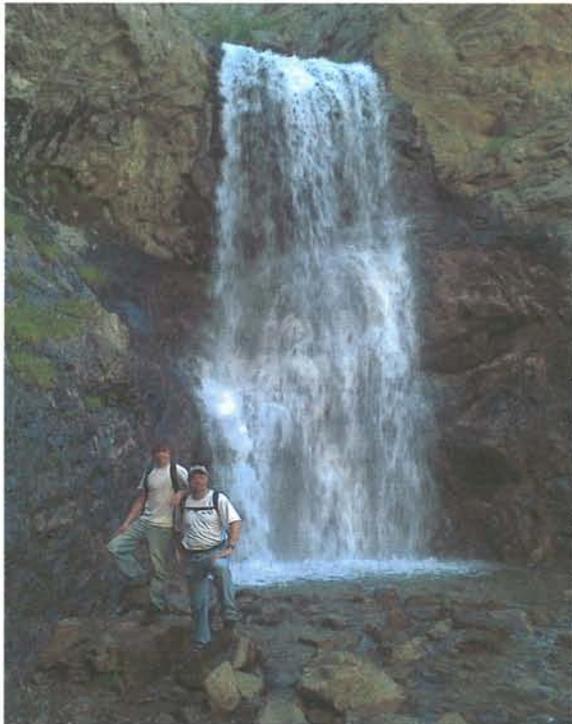
We had a great time at the family reunion and enjoyed seeing everyone.

After getting back we went up to the Summit for the weekend. We had a good time except that Thayne had a 4 wheeler accident and ended up with stitches in his head and knee. He had to sit out of soccer for a couple of weeks but he's back now (except for some hair on the side of his head!)

We had our stake youth conference at Utah State. Cason and I went to that and we had a fun time.

Kelly's sister Reann and her family came down for a vacation and we spent a day boating with them at Echo Reservoir.

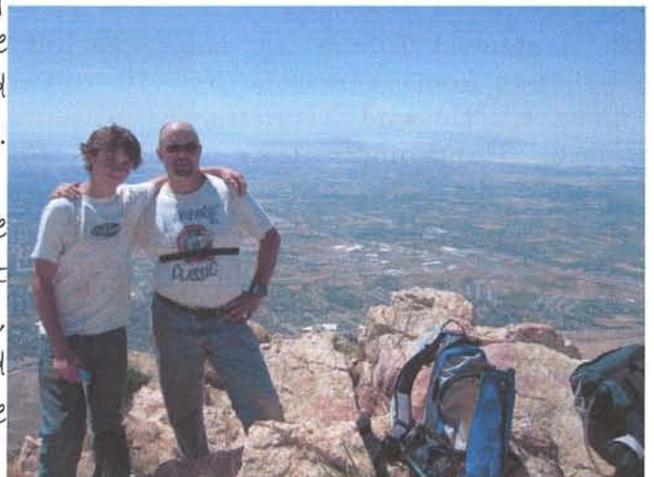
Thayne participated in several soccer tournaments this summer. His team took first place in 2 of them and second place in the last one.



Cason and I are planning a hike to King's Peak next week with the Priest and Teacher age scouts. In preparation we have done several hikes. Several weeks ago we hiked up a canyon in Layton to a cool waterfall (picture at left). Next we hiked to Ben Lomond Peak in Ogden (picture below). This one was tough! It was 16 miles round trip and had a 3500 ft. elevation change. It was a long, hot day that ended with a few blisters for me! But the views and scenery were awesome. We saw 1 large bull snake, several chuckars and a bunch of mountain goats. We went through a couple of snow/ice fields and the boys slid down them on the way back. The picture has Ogden and the Great Salt Lake in the background. This last Saturday Kelly had a class so the kids and I hiked up Waterfall Canyon in Ogden. I was surprised that

Meg made it the whole way and only asked to be carried a couple of times! This waterfall is really beautiful. Not a lot of water this time of year, but it falls about 500 feet. Cason and I are planning to load up our packs to full weight and do one more hike before our trip to King's Peak. We are excited to climb the highest peak in Utah.

Last night for Family Home Evening we went out to Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake. We had a lot of fun in spite of the dirty, smelly water! It was fun to play in the water and be able to float so easily. We drove around the island and looked at the Antelope and Bison also.



The Piersons:

Hello everyone! We are all doing well. BYU has built a new Cannon Center (the place where Jared works), so Jared has moved over there. It is a nice building, but the dish room is small. Because of this, we are considering moving him over to the dish room at the MTC. We think he would really like that. When they asked me, I said it was too bad they didn't make the change a couple of months ago while Cory was there! That would have been fun! He still loves going to work. He comes home tired, but tells me about his friends and all the work he does. We have been going to the track every day when Steve gets home from work. Jared is up to nine laps in the outside lane! It is good exercise for him! We put his I-pod on and let him listen to tunes (usually musicals or Disney songs) while he walks. He's been a good sport about it.



We went to Ethan's blessing the first Sunday in August. He is doing well and growing lots. He is sleeping 12-14 hours a night - how do they do it?! He is starting to smile and is pretty aware of things around him. Riley loves his brother. They both love being outside - it will be nice when it cools off a little bit more!

News from Virginia is awesome! Cory is doing well and learning some wonderful things. The first couple of weeks were rough as he learned to rely on the Lord and get over some personal fears. He said it is much better now. Here is a little piece from his letter about one of the guys

they are teaching:

"Things were good this week. Sam is so amazing. He came to church for the first time on Sunday and after sacrament meeting I started asking him what he thought about it. He said that he wished he had started coming earlier. Then we went to gospel principles and he loved that as well. He saw one of the Joseph Smith manuals during gospel principles and asked Elder Batty how he could get one because he wanted to start reading that as well. He is so elect; the Lord truly does prepare the hearts of men for the message. Elder Batty was talking to him the other night, and he asked Sam if he had been talking to anyone about the gospel. Sam said he is sharing it with everyone he knows, and that he can't wait to have the priesthood!! He is amazing. Sam is a deputy at the jail here in Newport News. We don't know how, but he got a hold of a military size Book of Mormon and he reads it whenever he has some down time at work. The thing I would like you to pray for him is that he will get Sundays off. Right now he gets every other Sunday off, but one of our rules is that the investigator needs to attend church four times before they can be baptized, and right now Sam is set for September 23, and that is such a long time away for someone like him. So pray for a miracle that he will be able to get Sundays off."

The picture was sent to us by some of the members in Newport News. It shows Cory with his two (Zone Leader) companions, Elders Allen and Batty. He looks happy!!



The Coons Family:



We had a very full and eventful summer. Hannah and Todd took our dogs, Taffy and Dandy, to obedience school. They are pretty good for the most part.

Our first trip this summer was to Rocky Point, Mexico. We went there with lots of other families and stayed for a week. The water was warm and the sand was beautiful. There were lots of shells. It was a lot of fun! The only bad thing that happened was that Todd got stung by a stingray. It was very painful but he got a shot at the Red Cross and was okay after that. The picture to the left is of the girls with their hair braided.

We went to Utah at the first of June and enjoyed Dad's (Lemuel's) 70th birthday party. It was nice to see Charlie and Sri here from Hawaii. We were glad to be there for Jeremy and Tara's wedding and reception (even though we didn't get our recommends renewed on time :(so we missed the wedding). It was so great also to hear Cory speak in church before his mission and be part of that great celebration.



We came home for a few weeks, then went back to Utah for the reunion in Marysville. That was great! Thanks, Piersons, and everyone for making it so nice. We loved being with everyone and it was such a beautiful place.

When we got back the kids took swim lessons and I took aquacise. I liked it a lot. We spent a weekend at Todd's parents' house. We spoke in church. Our friend, Steve, got baptized after listening to the missionaries for two years! He asked Todd to baptize him and it was great to be part of it.

Now the kids are all back in school. Things have changed a lot for Brittney the last few months. She turned 13, got contacts and braces, and grew! She still plays piano and oboe and is in the 8th grade.

Hannah is in 6th grade this year. She still plays violin and piano. She is signed up for soccer (but not too happy about it).

Aubrey lost her two front teeth! She is in 2nd grade and thinks the school day is just too long. Aubrey is getting baptized on October 18 (Todd's b-day) and you are all invited! Let us know if you would like to come.

Caleb just turned 6 and he's in all day Kindergarten. This is a new stage in life for me because I'm home alone during the day now. Caleb seems to be loving school. He has a great teacher and his best friend, Brock, is in his class. They were in preschool together. Caleb is signed up for soccer this fall.