

MARCH
2013

HAPPY HAPPENINGS

116th Edition

FAMILY REUNION 2013

The date for the family reunion is June 27-29 and we'll be having it at the Dye cabin in Scofield. Any questions should be directed to Lawson and Lisa. Laura said if anyone wants more privacy or space you can bring/rent a motorhome or camper trailer. Another option was to sleep outside in tents (maybe for kids?)

Please let Lawson know how many people will be coming from your family as soon as you can so we can get an idea of how many people we'll have.

Assignments

Here's what we have so far. Let Lawson or Lisa know if this doesn't work for you or if you have other ideas.

Service Project

The Dye Family

Cut wood.

Food

Thurs. Lunch - Lisa, Dinner - Laura

Fri. Bfast - Lawson, Lunch - Leslie, Dinner - Loreen

Sat. Bfast - Lana, Lunch - Larry/
leftovers

FHE

The Wilsons and Coons

Unifying Games

Greg D. will bring puzzles

Everyone should try to bring a craft or think of a game. More to come.

Paper Products

Grandma and Grandpa

Activities

Catching crawdads, hike to the hippie bus, canoeing, 4-wheeling, boating?, fishing. etc.

FUTURE REUNIONS:

Here are the assignments for who is in charge of the reunions for the next few years. These people are in charge of setting the date, determining the schedule and making the reservations. They will also assign other siblings and their families to be in charge of food assignments, service, FHE, unifying activities, etc. We worked this out in 2011 and everyone is on the schedule twice in those 7 years. Certainly if this doesn't work out, we can switch things around.

2014 - Leslie & Loreen

2015 - Lana & Lisa

2016 - Laura & Lawson

2017 - Larry & Leslie

KATELYN & DEREK

Hello everyone!

It was a really busy winter for us! We had a great Thanksgiving/Christmas with family. Derek and I recieved 2 new guns for Christmas, so we were able to test them out on Christmas Eve with Jon, Heather, Mom & Dad.

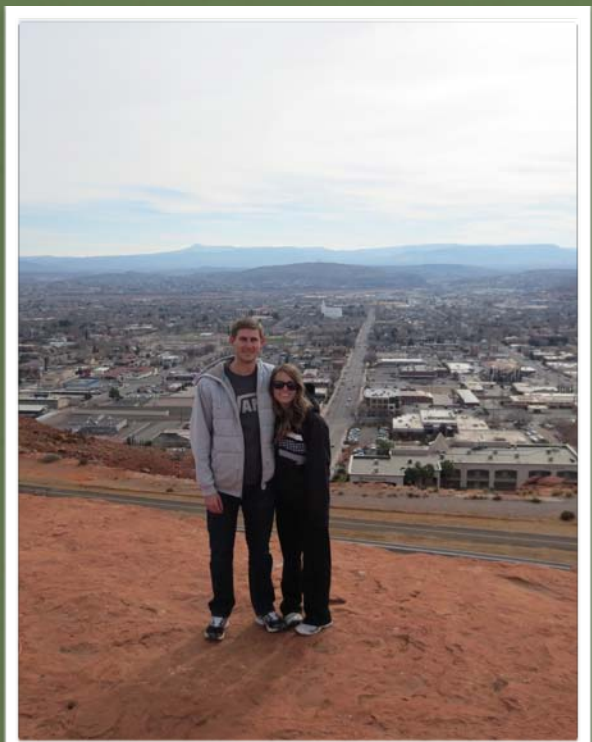


Derek is currently studying at ASU and will be entering his final year next August before we go off to Physical Therapy School. We are considering multiple schools around the country, so once he applies and is accepted, we will let you know! I am still working at the Desert Botanical Garden and with the Spring upon us, the Garden is getting busier and busier with winter visitors wanting to enjoy the nice weather & Spring blooms.

Other than school & work, Derek has been busy training for the Phoenix Half Marathon which he will have already run by the time you get this, so we'll see how that goes! We also just recently received new callings in the Young Men and Young Women. I am over the Mia-Maids and Derek is over the Priests. It's been a very fun (and busy) calling and we are excited to continue to work with the youth in our ward!

We are coming up on our 1-year anniversary and are planning a trip up to Sedona, so we'll report on that trip in the next newsletter.

We were able to make a trip up to St. George in December/January to celebrate the New Year with Derek's Grandparents. It was fun to enjoy rappelling, snowboarding up at Bryan Head, and ringing in the New Year. We miss you all! Have a great Spring!





PAYSON ACOSTA
FEBRUARY 15, 2013

6 pounds 12 ounces
20 3/4 inches

Congratulations, Jon and Heather!



The Wilsons

Hi Everyone,

Idaho is great! It hit 40 degrees today and the snow is starting to melt. It will go back down though, we have at least two more months until it's spring here. We have been busy these past few months.



Brianna finished up with her semester at BYU-I. She looked around for a good job and felt like she had some good leads. Unfortunately none of them panned out so after a while she did what nobody here really likes to do and she went and applied at the Rexburg Opinion Center which is referred to around here as the ROC. It isn't too hard to get on there so as you can imagine she started right up. So now she calls folks and tries to get them to take surveys. It isn't random, Companies will have them call up their customers and ask them stuff like how helpful their catalog is and stuff like that. I wouldn't say she loves it but she seems to be getting through it OK. She also works in the Temple laundry Saturday afternoons. This should truly motivate her to do well in school so she doesn't have to do this her whole life.



Jeff in down to the last few months of his mission. He will be home on the 8th of May and is scheduled to speak in Church on the 12th of May. everyone is invited and we'd love to see whoever can make it. Our sacrament meeting is at 9:00. He has been serving as a Zone Leader

which has kept him very busy. He is serving in a suburb of the Capital Santa Domingo. He was thinking that he might get transferred but he stayed put so now it looks like he will finish up there, which means 9 months in the same area. I'm sure he still has some bugs but he says he is feeling much better. We will probably be trying to clear out he last of the amoeba for some time to come. He can't wait to come home and cook us up some authentic Dominican food. I guess we will be eating some new cuisine.



Amy and Tyler are anxiously awaiting word on Tyler's Occupational Therapy School. He had an interview with the University of Utah and felt like it went pretty well. He will probably hear from them one way or the other in the next few weeks. He also has applied to the University of Texas International in Edinburg Texas. If he gets accepted there he will probably go there since it is a lot cheaper than the U. We just hope they go to the best place for their family.



As of January 4th Charlie Battery 17th Fires Brigade has a new Commander. Rich took command and is having a great time but staying very busy. Being the Commander Rich is responsible for everything his Battery does or fails to do, so it is a very heavy load. This past month they discovered that five of his soldiers were using and selling SPICE. I guess it is some sort of synthetic marijuana so he is having to do the paperwork to put them out of the

Army. Unfortunately that is the sort of thing that takes up most of your time and energy as a commander is just dealing with the crazy things people do, sort of the same thing a Bishop does.



I am still plugging away with my cadets. Last Thursday and Friday we took our seniors to the Little Big Horn Battlefield in Montana where General Custer had his last stand. It was a good trip and gave us the chance to spend some time with them taking about the tactics and challenges they faced and what we face today. I am looking forward to spring so I can get out and do a few things before I head out to Fort Lewis for the summer. It looks like I will be leaving about the 10th of June and getting back the first week of August. I sure to have a great gig going. I spend my winters in cold icy Rexburg and then spend most of the summer in cool rainy Washington when it is nice here in Rexburg.



Leslie is still selling clothes at Lulu Bella here in Rexburg. She loves it and has made some great friends. She is still very active at the World Gym here in town. They are having a contest right now called Around the World in 90 Days. She has racked up 750 miles with all of her classes and lots of cardio. She is in fourth place right now behind some folks that pretty much live there. I am very proud of her. Well I hope you all are well and we look forward to seeing many of you at he big wedding at the end of the month.

The Sorensens

Hello, everyone. We don't have much new news. We are all doing well, have had a good winter, and are looking forward to a good Spring. Jaxon and Jancy have been playing basketball, so we have been watching a lot of games. It should be done in the next 2 weeks. Broox, Dixon and Rix have started piano lessons, and are doing well, but their teacher is moving. We found another lady who teaches, so

hopefully they will continue to enjoy that. Aaron is getting ready for his busy time of the year. The Carney Ranch is for sale, so we are trying to decide what would be best for our future. Hope everyone is doing well.

The Sorensens



Livin' the dream!!



The High School had a dodge ball tournament to raise money for a charity, and we entered as a family. They had age groups, but we had to go against all high schoolers because we had some older age group people. We obviously didn't win, but the crowd had fun watching, and boo'd the other team when they got our little guys out.

FAMILY FUN AT THE SORESENS'

We made cotton candy at a basketball game and donated the money for their fundraiser. We sold \$175 worth of cotton candy.



Making gingerbread houses

The Utah Burnetts

Duck hunting season is over again. The boys went a couple of times in the early season but not so much as it got colder. Imagine that. They don't really like to get up way early to go sit out in the freezing cold to shoot at ducks that really don't taste very good?! Archery season also ended. I was able to shoot a deer with my bow so that was good for me.

Meg and Landon are in tumbling and seem to be enjoying it. It's fun to watch Landon. He's getting pretty good with a fancy tumbling pass on the long trampoline at the tumbling place.

Meg, Landon and I went to a few Weber State basketball games this season.

We were so excited to get 2 new water heaters for Christmas! We knew one water heater was broken and the other one decided to break right before Christmas. I took a freezing cold shower one morning and a guy in the ward helped me replace them that night.

Thayne has had fun snowboarding this season. He's also been playing lots of indoor soccer.

Meg joined her elementary school choir. They got to perform at a few events in the area and it was fun to watch her. She had her 10th Bday.



Kelly got a new laptop and I got a new handgun for Christmas. We had fun at 'Get Air' a trampoline park in town. I made a little video of all our mad skills and put it on Facebook. If you didn't see it you'll definitely want to look it up! Kelly wanted to do some of her old moves but was a little nervous. She got the nerve up and did some round-off



Landon, Thayne and Tanner

back hand-springs into the foam pit and looked pretty good for an oldie!

Tanner and I had a great time ice fishing.

I'm still playing church basketball and having a good time with that. We won enough in our stake to move on to regions play which starts this week.



Everyone has had a turn being sick lately.

Landon will turn 12 next month and get the priesthood. We plan to ordain him March 31 and everyone is invited.

We had a nice mid-winter trip to St. George last week. Thayne had a soccer tournament which was a nice excuse to get out of the cold! We stayed at the condo in St. George and put our points together with our friends so we could stay in a nice big penthouse suite which



was very fun. We took mountain bikes and the grown up boys went for some fun rides in the area. On the Sunday we drove out to Kanab and spent the day with Connie, Ben, Melanie and Joanna. It was nice to see them and spend the day with them. We also went to the St. George temple with the teenage kids and did baptisms for the dead.



Last week was our ward temple night. The Ogden temple is closed

for remodeling. The Bountiful temple was closed for cleaning and Brigham City was too busy so we went to the Salt Lake temple with the people from our ward. It was so busy with the other temples being closed but we really enjoyed visiting the Salt Lake temple again.

THE COONS FAMILY

In December Todd's Grandparents celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary!! When they got married she was 16 and he was 18. It is inspiring to see such a devoted and loving couple.



This is how we found our kids on Christmas Eve:



We enjoyed going to the Luminarias at the Desert Botanical Garden with the Burnetts:



For Christmas Hannah gave Caleb all the ingredients needed to make cake pops, then they made them together:



Here's a picture of me and Brittney painting Gma & Gpa's house. Brittney was such a big help with our move!



Aubrey with Gma & Gpa at Bahama Bucks after her basketball game:



Our house



After living at Gma & Gpa's for 5 months, we finally moved back into our newly remodeled home. It's still not quite finished, especially the lawn, but we LOVE it! It's just right for us. We got a ping pong table for Christmas. Aubrey and Caleb have gotten really good!



We love you all!

The Coons Family

Jeremy, Tara, Savannah and Madilyn

November - I worked on the playground quite a bit and got it almost all the way done before the snow came.



December - I completely rebuilt my website (dyeclan.com) from the ground up and migrated close to 400 pages of content over to the new format. We also went to a few Christmas parties, which were a lot of fun. I helped a friend built an end table for his wife for Christmas. We spent Christmas with family. It was nice to have Christmas close to a weekend this year so we could spread out all the visits over several days.



January - We celebrated New Years at the Dye cabin. I'm not sure if Anthony's submitting an article this time, but in case he isn't, Anthony dislocated his

knee after jumping a school bus on his snowboard. Ouch.



We built some shelves in our storage room.



I scanned all of the old issues of Happy Happenings that my Mom had and put them on my website. They are at <http://dyeclan.com/family/burnetts/happyhappenings/>. Go check it out. And while you're at it, check out all the Burnett family reunions since 1990 at <http://dyeclan.com/family/burnetts/reunions/>. Pictures are pretty scarce (or non-existent) for some of them, so I'd appreciate it if anyone wants to help contribute.

Also in January, we went to Brody's funeral.

I built a stinkin' awesome computer with top-notch parts for about \$450. Getting it all working took some trial and error. Finally after installing Windows for the 6th time, I got the full capacity of my 3TB hard drive. My mom came to Richfield for a visit and she and Tara worked on a quilt.

January also marked the beginning of potty training Savannah. However that didn't last long because Tara, Madilyn, and I went to Washington DC for most of a week. I had a seminar in DC, so most of my travel expenses were paid by my work. We visited lots of museums including National Portrait Gallery, National Geographic Museum, Spy Museum, National Holocaust Museum, National Air and Space Museum, National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of Printing and Engraving, and the National Postal Museum. We also saw several monuments and buildings from the outside. It was really cold while we were there, and everything closed at 5:30, so we spent most of the evenings in our hotel watching TV. It was an awesome trip.



Jeremy, Tara, Savannah and Madilyn, Cont.

February - February – I spent a lot of time working on an online guide book that I am writing. It's called [Canyoneering 101](#) and is intended to be a training guide on how to go canyoneering. I've written close to 100 pages so far and am about 2/3 done. It has close to 300 pictures that I have taken, most of them in a photography white box in our spare bedroom. The weather finally warmed up enough for us to get back outside. We spent half a Saturday hiking around in the foothills north of town and discovered several 120-year-old lime kilns, which were pretty neat.



Tara discovered a website called Once A Month Mom and tried their program for the first time. It involves doing a month's worth of cooking in 2 days and freezing it all. We've had a lot of fun pulling meals out of the freezer and trying new dishes.

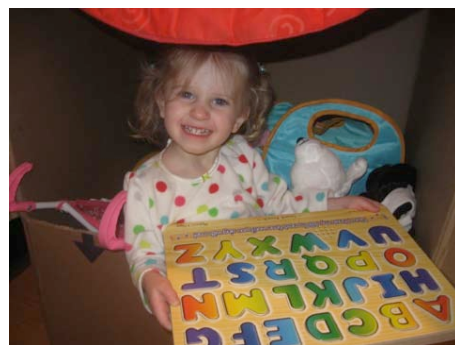


I took some friends canyoneering with me to Cassidy Arch Canyon in Capitol Reef National Park. It was awesome. We rappelled through 3 arches during the course of the canyon. Tara and I made a deal where I can go on one trip per month guilt-free without her, and she gets one evening every week to do whatever she wants. (Everything on top of that is negotiable.) She is currently playing rec volleyball with several of her friends.

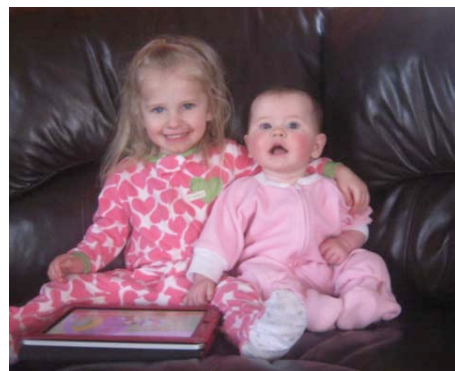


Savannah is 2.5 years old. She's finally growing a bit, but just up. She's so skinny her diapers won't stay on. Both Savannah and Madilyn are wearing the same size diapers

now. Savannah has learned about half her letters and can count to 14 (the number of stairs in our house). She loves Elmo and plays the Elmo app on Tara's iPad whenever she can.



Madilyn is 6 months. She is a chunk. She hates lying on her stomach and can roll over onto her back in the blink of an eye. Getting her to roll over onto her stomach is a different story. Madilyn is getting really good at holding things in her hands, and has just started eating baby food.



Grandma and Grandpa

WOW, family—what a difference three months makes! Just last Newsletter things were pretty “dire” for us. My diagnosis—ALS—by four different Drs! Prognosis—2 to 5 years to live. Outlook—dreary! Paralysis, inability to speak, swallow, breathe. Oh my, oh my! So I MUST tell you what I believe with all my heart has happened. Almost as soon as I heard the diagnosis, I began to pray the following prayer. And yes it was repetitive! But honest, I thought about those words and meant every word, every time I uttered them! (and who knows how many times I uttered them!)

“Heavenly Father, they say I have ALS. I don’t want it! Please, if I have it, HEAL ME! I know you can, if it is Thy will. PLEASE let it be Thy will! In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen. Simple, child-like prayer, but *full of faith!*

On November 29, 2012 the ALS Specialist, Dr. Bromberg, left the following message on my phone: **“We now have the biopsy results. It is NOT consistent with ALS and it IS consistent with an INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHY. We did not see the characteristic features of INCLUSION BODY MYOSITIS but that is not always found. We will look at the slides further and go over them in detail with you.**

JOY! RELIEF! GRATITUDE! Well, those words can’t begin to express my feelings. My Testimony is that I have been healed from ALS. No—not that they made a mistake on the diagnosis, but that *I had it and I’ve been made well!*

Now, not that the inflammatory myopathy is a piece of cake! In fact many of the symptoms are the same and will lead to some of the same outcomes. Some myositis is treatable, though not curable. It is NOT fatal, in and of itself.

So, there you have it. Life is terminal, I know that. I was willing to face it sooner than later. But, oh, how grateful I am that I seem to have been granted an extension on life. To find out more about what I DO have you could look at this link. Or not.

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/inflammatory_myopathies/detail_inflammatory_myopathies.htm?css=print

Shift gears. This is Grandpa writing now. Grandma has written about some mighty big blessings we have had. Let me write about some more. We have had lots of guidance from on High – not only regarding our health, but also in terms of where we live.

Most of you know that I have been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease with Dementia. I go a couple of times a year to a Dr. at the University of Utah for a check-up and evaluation. This time he wanted me to see a counselor who specializes in helping those with that disease to be as independent as possible, and yet have the help they need as they get older and more and more likely to need more and more help. He strongly urged that as many of our family as possible participate in a counseling session – either by being there or on the phone via a conference call. So, on January 3, 2013, Lisa, Gwen, David, Lawson, Grandma and I attended the meeting, and Tracy, Leslie and Loreen attended via the telephone. **(Remember the Date Jan 3!!!!)** The counselor was very knowledgeable and very well organized. He made it clear that, in most cases, more and more help is needed as we get older and the disease advances. He made it clear that much of this help can, and should come from family members. He suggested that we take a proactive approach to prevent accidents such as tripping, falling down steps, etc. In fact he recommended that our home should be on one level, with *no* stairs or ‘throw rugs’ near family. He urged that family members become involved in providing regular visits, help getting to the Doctors, one-on-one visiting including ‘brain games’, and ‘respite’ for the main caregiver—Grandma. I’ll let Grandma help with the writing from here.

As we were leaving the meeting, Lisa and Gwen said to each other, “We just need to get them to Springville so we can do some of these things more easily.” When they shared this with me, (Grandma), I said, “Well, we’ve tried to move to Springville but the Lord didn’t want us to.” (Through the years we’ve tried hard to find a suitable home in Springville. We love it there. But obviously we weren’t ready then or we weren’t looking for the right kind of house, or *something!*)

The next day Lisa called. She said that over the last few months she had looked at condos in a senior citizen community there in Springville. (Jared wanted to watch the 'diggers'.) She said that several times she had had the inclination to tell us about it and urge us to consider moving there. She hesitated, knowing that we love our ward and our friends. But she really had felt that we should look into it with the idea of moving to Springville and just hadn't mentioned it yet.

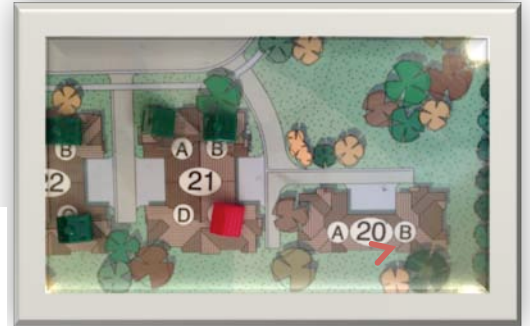
Think about it—it makes so much sense! We have three of our daughters and their families living there. They would be in a *much* better position to be of help to us and we would be in a much better position to interact and hopefully be more involved and close to our grandkids.

So, as she called, she prefaced her suggestion with the statement; "I know how much you love your ward and friends but" and then told me about her inspiration (my word). I *immediately* shouted; "We'd love to live in Springville! We *do* love our ward, but not as much as we love our family! YES, we'll come and see the condo." Lisa and Ethan scoped it out and gave the go-ahead. And so, on **January 4, 2013 (note the date, Jan 4)**, we jumped in the truck and in 40 minutes we were feeling the Spirit as we looked at our future home (well, not that we knew it then.) Lisa and we relaxed in the club house for a couple of hours, talking, reasoning, being prayerful and you know what? *We couldn't find one negative—not one reason this was not the road we should take! And so we did!* (take it, that is.) After several days and lots of prayers and consulting with some of you, we put down earnest money on a duplex at the outer edge of the community—right across from a park! That was **January 15, 2013!** WOW! Things move fast! Some of you have seen the model and have heartily approved. We're excited. It should be ready in July.

But—that meant selling the Saratoga Springs condo. How to do that? Property values have been down and it was very scary to think of going through the process of listing, showing and the whole real estate procedure. So—a very shortened version of a very big MIRACLE would read: **1.** We contacted 2 realtors about listing the property (and paying them 6% grrrrrrrr) **2.** We contracted our friend Rocky to do the touch up and repairs suggested by the realtors. **3.** Before we could decide on which realtor (we really had a stupor of thought), **4.** Two people **called US** and wanted to consider buying it!!!! (See what we mean by **MIRACLE?** No listing, no sign, no flyer, very few friends even knew we were thinking about selling it!). **5.** The first potential buyer had a condo to sell before they could buy it. **6.** BUT the second one looked at it one day and made a full-price offer the next! (Well, full price plus a little for a lot of the furniture.)

And that's where we are now. We're learning that 'for sale by owner' = WORK!! Waaaah Waaaah. We're also learning that an "offer" doesn't necessarily mean a sale! She's having trouble getting her financing—so, who knows? But, we still feel like we're greatly blessed.

We also found that the only thing worse than packing up *some* of our belongings and leaving on time to go to our new home in Gilbert, was to pack up to go to Gilbert *PLUS* pack things in preparation to selling the condo, cleaning in preparation to selling the condo, etc. etc. Wow, we needed lots of help *and we got it!* Lisa went above and beyond anything you can imagine. As much as she has to do and as frail as her health is, she came day after day after day and packed boxes and *lifted them to the garage!* She helped



Our Duplex is being built at 20 B. 20 A & B are the only duplexes—all the others are fourplexes. We feel fortunate to have only one neighbor and they will be on the other side of the garage! Note little park in front.



They called for Cory to get up in there and play "TETRIS"

He did a GREAT job!

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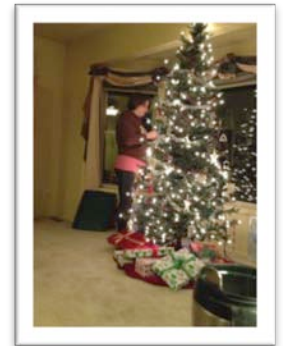
me make decisions, kept me on track. Wow, what a help! Thank you Honey. Gwen and Ed also made quite the sacrifice! Along with many of our family, they helped with loading the truck. The heroics came as they drove that rickety Budget rental truck through snow and rain for 700 miles! Thank you so much! We couldn't have done it! Leslie was a life saver. She organized the ladies of the troops to clean, clean, clean. How embarrassing! But it was certainly needed. Leslie wouldn't let Greg go to bed that night till the last wall was washed and the light bulbs in our bathroom were dusted! Thank you so much Les. So, our hearts go out to all who helped! Thank you: Gwen, Ed & kids, Shauna & kids, Lisa, Steve & kids, Leslie, Greg & Amy, Lawson & kids. I know *all* of you would have helped if you had been near and were able. Thank you too.



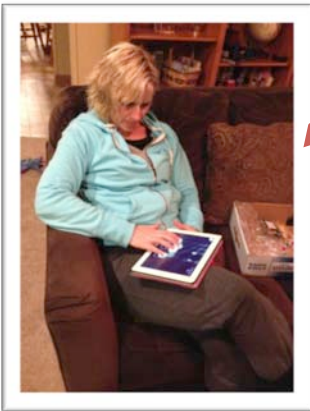
Well, in the meantime, life really did go on. We actually have been doing *real* things—not just the “Miracle” stuff.

Amidst all the health issues and the anticipation that we might be leaving for Gilbert before Christmas, real life kinda did get suspended. Every week we wondered if we'd be leaving the cold country. Well, believe me; we didn't leave soon enough to avoid the very thing we were going for! But one day it dawned on us that we would definitely not be spending Christmas in the 'warm country.' We immediately called the Sorensens and booked a room in our long-time Christmas get-a-way in the Sorensen chalet in Riverton, Wyoming. No place beats it! AND we realized that we could have our traditional Family Christmas get-together at our place! JOY!

We made a trip to spend some time with Leslie, Greg and Brianna December 14--16. We always enjoy being with them and we're amazed at the delicious meals they stir up! Brianna decorated the Christmas tree with Greg topping it off with the star. Good times were had by all.



We had booked the club house for our Family party and everyone helped to put the party together. We had a good turnout! Lisa, Chris, Dave, Riley, Ethan, Conner, Jared, Cory and Labretta; Leslie, Greg, Amy, Tyler and Brianna; Laura, Anthony, Arianne and Zac; Lawson, Kelly, Tanner and friend, Thayne, Landon and Meg; Gwen, Ed, Krista, Ben, Jane, Kylie, Mike, Dallin and Preston, plus US = 36. We had great food and a yummy drink. Wonderful entertainment—homegrown!



Leslie played “Oh, Holy Night!” Amazing huh? Bet you didn't know she could do it. Well, it's great how “Smule” on your iPad can help!

Lawson, Landon and Meg gave us their great rendition of “Mary Did You Know?” Grandma's eyes weren't the only ones that were damp!





Anthony and Arianne said they weren't prepared and then proceeded to perform a perfectly amazing vocal/guitar number. Gosh, what would it have been like if they *had* prepared!

And then GREG. Well, supposedly he had Amy and Leslie in the play but to tell the truth I couldn't tell. All I could detect was his dual personality as he played both of the main characters. Actually, his play was a little discriminatory towards old forgetful folks like the 2 that were actually in the audience. It was funny though and all of

us laughed, even if it did take the 2 of us a while to get the punch line.

You gotta love that guy!!!! (I know I do)



Well, Christmas was coming so we headed to Riverton. We got there Friday the 21st so we could catch the Basketball games. We missed Broox's game ☹! But caught the other two! It was great!



We loved being there and reading to kids, making very fancy gingerbread houses, going to town to do last minute shopping, and being part of an atmosphere where every night is Family Home Evening!

We hung our stockings, tucked the kids into bed and awaited the excitement! Boy, I've never been

anywhere where Christmas is bigger than at the Sorensens! (Except maybe in the Burnett home as you were growing up.) (Or the Dyes.) We were *not* disappointed! Santa came in a big way. We loved it! Thank you Sorensens for another memorable Christmas!





New Year's Eve at the Dye cabin! A first for us. When we got there and realized that we'd be escorted from the parking lot to the cabin by Jeremy and Anthony on snowmobiles, I got cold feet! (Literally and figuratively.) Not something Grandma and Grandpa do on a regular basis. They were careful and understanding and we made it! Games, puzzles, family—it was all there. New Year's Eve with the Dye family—nothing to compare. Thanks a lot!

Of course, the most momentous and traumatic event of 2013 involves our sweet Cory, LaBretta and precious Brody. What an amazing 9 days they had. No baby ever received more love in such a short time. No baby (that I know of) had more pictures taken of him than Brody. No family ever received more love, support, prayers and encouragement—no Baby had more friends and family at his funeral... I could go on and on. It was a heart rending, horrible, wonderful, spiritual, discouraging, uplifting experience! Lisa expressed it so well when she said; "It is amazing the incredible impact a tiny infant can have on the lives of so many in such a short amount of time. We do love Brody!!"



So, let us not be devastated by the loss, but be grateful for the gift of a tiny, perfect, son of God who came for such a short time but left us with such a great lesson of love and peace.

We love you Brody!



Which brings us back to the trip to Gilbert, covered in the beginning of this epistle. Todd and Loreen had lined up family and Elder's Quorum folks to help unload the truck. By that night, we were sleeping in our own bed, our porch swing was put together, our computer room was all set up, the storage shelves were put together in the garage and the Christmas totes were all arranged on them! Loreen fed us a great Sloppy Joe dinner with Jill's homemade cookies and wonderful fresh-squeezed lemonade also made by the expert—Jill. Thanks to all who helped so much! Todd, Loreen, Brittney, Hannah, Aubrey and Caleb; Jill, Heather, Jon, Derek and Steve (Coon's friend) and several local Church guys—you know who you are—Thank You!



And here we are. Loreen came day after day after day to help in spite of all she had to do. She too lifted heavy boxes and, with the girl's help, organized the kitchen and lots of other things. Hannah's a whiz at organizing! Loreen is great to dive right in and hang pictures. Brit has all the talents of a decorator—she's got our shelves lookin' good!

Aubrey and Hannah unpacked clothes and hung them on hangers in the closet. That was great. Caleb and his friend unpacked games and puzzles and put them away.



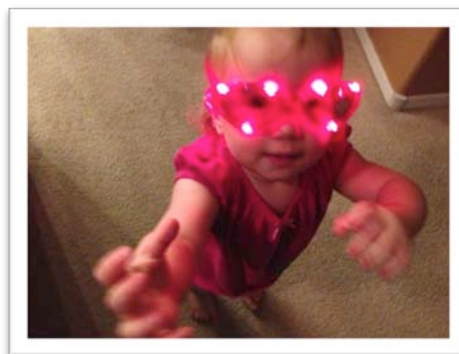
How exciting it was to be here for the birth of sweet little *Payson Acosta!* Heather was due on February 11 but no luck. When she hadn't shown signs of going into labor on her own, her Dr. started her and on Friday, Feb 15 Payson was born at 1:15 pm!

What a beautiful little thing, 6 lbs 12 oz with a tiny little nose, perfectly shaped head and long graceful fingers. Too bad her Grandpa (Larry) had just had his wisdom teeth removed and was pretty groggy! He's made up for lost time since then though.



What sweet parents Heather and Jon are! They're taking right to this parenting thing! Congratulations guys. We're so happy for you!

Tiffany, Drew and Braelyn paid us a visit and while they were here suggested shopping for furniture at "The Room Store Outlet." Loreen went with us and we bought a LOT of furniture for not much money! Thanks for the hint!



Here's Braelyn in her funky battery powered glasses! What a cutie!

We've been to games, a concert, and dinner with the Coons and with the Burnetts. It's great.



This last week Karen, Kendall, Bronsen and Raegan visited us. They're preparing to go to school near Phoenix. What a sweet family. Don't tell Grandpa but I fell in love with Bronsen! What a cutie.

We love you all. We're absolutely convinced that, as Lisa reminded us recently; "The Lord is in the details of our lives." (President Monson). He loves us, He cares for us, He comforts us and lifts us through trials. We love Him! From your Parents, OR your Grandparents, OR your Great Grandparents! Sounds good, Huh?

Weather in the United States



Weather in Utah

