



HAPPY HAPPENINGS

October 2001
35th Edition

TODD & LOREEN:

We were all saddened by the events of Sept. 11, 2001. May God bless those who lost loved ones and friends. May He inspire and guide the leaders of the nations and all those involved in restoring peace and security to our country and the world.

The leaves are turning in New England - what a sight!

Brittney's bottom two teeth are loose. She's glad because most everyone she knows has already lost lots of teeth. She's doing so well in first grade. She entered a flower in the garden showcase and won "Second Award." Her table got the most good marks on the chalk board so they got to stay in the room and have lunch with the teacher.

We signed Hannah up for a Preschool class one day a week and she starts in October. We also signed her up for story time at the library but we've been going once a week already so that she can play and get books and stuff. Her latest interest is typing on the computer. She types some words, numbers in sequence, and lots of gibberish. She knows how to change the font size and color.

Aubrey is just so cute. She took her first steps but is not walking. We enjoyed her birthday. She's working on somersaults instead!! It's the funniest thing you've ever seen. She puts her head on the ground and her behind in the air and walks in as far as she can and rolls over to the side. Then she laughs and laughs and starts over. She smacks her lips when she wants something to eat or drink. She also smacks her lips when it's time to give kisses. She gets so excited when Todd comes home and says "Hi" and "DaDa"

and laughs and Kicks and absolutely has to be held by him immediately. One of her favorite things is to sit up at our little desk and scribble with a pen.

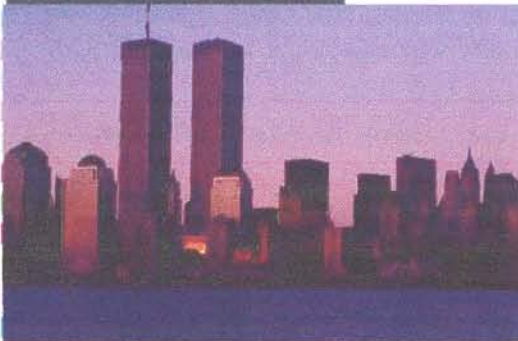
Todd's class is going well on Wednesday nights (6-9 pm). I am thoroughly enjoying my Independent Study Advanced Writing class.

We finished the trim in the family room so that room is done. Our garden is still producing. We have gotten tons and tons of cherry tomatoes.

Our good friends here, the Crows, are moving to South Carolina. We are sad about that. Our neighbors went to church with us but have no real interest. Some other friends from the Ukraine went to church with us another week.

We went to the temple and our friends that just moved to Boston to go to MIT watched our kids. That was especially nice since we haven't been to the temple together for a couple of years. Afterwards we took our friends out for ice cream at a place near Concord called Kimball Farms. The portions of ice cream were so big that after Todd got his I just didn't order. We definitely got our fill! Then we went to The Old North bridge near Lexington where the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired. It was off in the country and the drive was so beautiful.

We love and miss each of you!!



God Bless America!!

LANA & AARON:

We have had a good busy month. Jaxon started kindergarten and he loves it. He gets off the bus at 9:30. His school goes from 10:30 - 3:30 and he gets home at 4:30. We have to take him and meet him at the bus about a mile and a half away. It is weird to have him gone so much and we have all had to make adjustments, but I am very glad that he likes school.

Jancy started dance lessons one day a week so she could have something to do that is just for her. She was very nervous to have me leave the first day, but she really likes it and is doing well. The chance came up for her to be able to go to preschool on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 - 11 at the Shoshoni school (Jaxon's school). It is taught by the High school child development teacher and I thought this would be a good opportunity for her. So Monday and Wednesday Amberly and I and sometimes Jaxon get up and take Jancy to school. It doesn't really make sense to drop her off and come home because it's sixty miles round trip to the school, so I went and talked to the principal and we do parent volunteer work while we wait. Jaxon usually just stays with Aaron and rides the bus. Jancy loves her class and I think it will be good for her. She is four now but can't go to school for two more years because of the deadline. Amberly is just a good sport in everything we do. She is a sweetheart.

One weekend I (Yes, me alone!) Took the kids to a kids' rodeo and pavilion. It was an all day thing. Jaxon rode a sheep for the first time.

He almost wasn't going to get on but was glad he did. He did other events, too. Jancy got second in barrels for her age group and won seven dollars and a hat. She did other stuff, too. Amberly did the ribbon removal where you run down, pull the ribbon off a goat's tail and run back. She sure was a cutie.

Aaron went to Dubois for his week-long elk hunt/get-away. He wanted Jaxon to come with him which meant we all had to come. So on Wednesday after Jancy's school we drove for two and a half hours to meet Dad. Then we rode horses back in on a trail for two hours. It was cold at night but really warm in the days. Thursday the guys got up early to go hunting. The girls and I stayed close to the tent because just a few yards away from the tent on a horse trail were bear tracks and bear poop. We couldn't eat much because all the food has to be tied 15 feet up in the air between two trees so the bears can't get it. It was fine for awhile but after we played Hide-and-seek and Duck, duck, goose in that little tent for hours, I was ready for a change. The boys saw elk but didn't shoot one because they were holding out for the big one. That afternoon we went for a horse ride which ended up lasting for over five hours and the kids were all really tired and I got bucked off. Friday they went hunting again. Then we broke camp, packed it all on the horses and rode back out. I was ready to get out of the saddle and back in the truck. The kids and Aaron had a lot of fun so it was worth it.

Everything is going well, though, and we love you all.

PS. If anyone has extra pictures from Grandma's funeral, I would sure appreciate some. My film got ruined and I have nothing.



A very
Happy
Birthday
to
Ondylyn
Oct. 3

Laura
Oct. 4

Zachary
Oct. 11

and Todd
Oct. 18th!!
(Now he's
in his
thirties!)

Well, how thankful am I that we are home safely? Let me count the ways! (Sorry, too many to put in "Happy Happenings"!) We had such a great time and saw so many wondrous things—things I had never dreamed I would see. Thank heavens for 24 rolls of pictures to help me sort it all out in my mind. And thank heavens for guide books and picture postcards to help me sort out the pictures! You might say that seeing portions of eight countries in 23 days was a "whirlwind" trip and yes, sometimes we all felt a sense of overload. But I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Thanks, Leslie & Greg for all the planning and organization it took to show us such a good time. Thanks for the food (all but the donner-kababs) and the car and the tour guide and most of all for the great companionship. Thanks to Laura for being our faithful travel companion. Thanks, Rich and Jeff for giving up your beds. Thanks, Brianna and Amy for sharing your bathroom. You Wilsons are great! You have a super family—and we enjoyed crashing in and feeling so much a part of it.

Now, I have great plans about scrap booking all our pictures and I hope I'll be able to get some of you to sit down and let me tell you all about our trip. But in the meantime let me say that these are a *FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS* about being in the U. S. A. (in Austria we went on a 'Sound of Music' tour)

1. Cold, clear water—ALL I CAN DRINK! When you're used to our abundant supply of clean water it's probably hard to imagine being in a country where not only is the water not safe to drink, but bottled water at a restaurant costs as much or more than the food you order. You can get mighty obsessed with where your next drink is coming from. The picture to the right is not "doctored" up. The water in our room in Prague, Czech Republic was actually darker than this when we first turned it on.
2. ICE. Needless to say if water is in short supply, ice is unheard of!
3. Hearing English spoken! Wow—music to my ears to be able to hear and understand what people are saying.
4. Speaking English without wondering if you'll be understood or WORSE, misunderstood. Of course, many Europeans speak English—it's amazing. But isn't it a little presumptuous for us to show up in their country and expect them to cater to us! In retrospect, I should've thanked everyone who struggled to communicate with me. "Thank you for speaking English" became the phrase I used.
5. Driving on Wide Streets. I don't know how Greg did it! The streets in Europe are narrow and winding and people park everywhere, obstructing traffic even more. It was like driving an obstacle course at high speed. And yes—truly—there's no posted speed limit on parts of the autobahn and people go *FAST!*
6. SLEEP Boy, we didn't get much! In addition to changing time zones to be 8 hours later with the accompanying jet lag, we didn't schedule much sleep into the trip. We attempted to sleep in the following unlikely places: *On the plane. *In the van while Greg drove to Austria, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Czech Republic. *In funny, dingy youth hostels, sometimes with all eight of us crammed into one room with bunk beds. *On a tour bus to Italy (sleep all night on the bus, wake and see things like the Leaning Tower of Pisa). *Then, after seeing Florence, Pompeii, Naples, Capri, Rome and Venice on September 11, 2001, trying to sleep on the bus. That was just after a kindly German tour guide told us our country was in rubble. *On a sleeper car to Paris. Now, the movies make sleeping on a train look very romantic and exciting. But ask Lynn, Leslie and Laura what my first reaction to being stuffed into a room about the size of a bathroom, with six hard bunks and no room to stand or even sit on your bunk was. *Not a pretty sight!* (I adjusted though, and even enjoyed the return trip.) Here is our hostel in Budapest. Nothing like a room with 8 beds to bring family togetherness!



Well, what distressing times these are. How uncertain. BUT, how grateful we are to have the true gospel of Jesus Christ. "If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear." I'm asking the question, 'How prepared am I? Is my lamp full of oil?'

(Continued on next page)

We have many questions. Will our house sell now? The answer? : If it's the Lord's will. Will we go forth to serve in spite of the troubles? Answer: YES! Am I insecure about giving up the comfort of a home to do it? Well, duh—you know your Mom. But am I willing? A resounding YES. We're all in a state of flux. Lana & Aaron are hoping to sell their house too and we are praying for them. We still have the daily schedules and tasks to keep us occupied but in the back of our minds the song "God, Bless America!"

Most of all and much more important than houses selling and even of Grandma and Grandpa going on a mission is the moral safety of our family. Everyone please pray for Greg Wilson as he has back surgery in October. As I interact with you children and grandchildren, my love for each of you increases exponentially. I pray so much for you, Rich. And for you, Zachary. And I mention you just because you've been on my mind so much in the recent weeks. But the same goes for Tiff and Heather and Katelijn. For Christie, Jared, Jenny and Cory. And you too--Amy, Brianna, and Jeff. Jeremy, Anthony and Ondy—I don't want to leave you out. Hey—Cason, Tanner, Thayne and Landon, I'm thinking of you. Brittney, Hannah and Aubrey, you're in Grandma's prayers. Jaxon, Jancy, Amberly and the one that's coming, I LOVE YOU ALL. Please believe it! I've loved you all, all of your lives. I tried to be one of the first persons to hold you and whisper I love you, soon after you were born. From the very distressing first hours of Christie's life to weeping as I held little Landon in the hospital recently—I have prayed for each of you. I continue to pray for you! God Bless Our Family!

Love, Grandma

We went to the Summit a couple of times this month. We sure like going up there. We went up for a while on Memorial Day weekend. We also went over to Dad's house and rode horses and all. Here is a picture of Kelly & Cason at the Summit.



We're having fun with soccer. On Saturday Cason's team did so well. Everybody was where they were supposed to be and they just kept scoring goal after goal!

The other day Thayne and a friend were going through a box of toys. Thayne made a comment about them needing to be careful because there was an "earnog" crawling around in there!

I had a nice birthday last week. A couple of huge projects at work that I'd been working on forever finally came together! In the evening we had cub scout pack meeting (I'm the cub master). After the activities, the group sang happy birthday to me! I had also worked to put together a fun video of stuff I'd taped from pack meetings and day camps. The boys really enjoyed it.

We had something a little different happen at church. Sunday before last the Stake Pres came and announced that we'd be getting a new bishop the next week. This last Sunday we went to church wondering who it would be. The Stake Pres got up and announced that there wouldn't be any changes! We were all a little surprised and are still wondering what happened.

Well we can finally say with great joy that we sold our old house in Ogden. It's all done! We weren't able to make the money we had hoped, but were still able to pay down some of the debt incurred while we were trying to sell it. We are very thankful to you all for your help and prayers for us to be able to sell that house. Now we can finally move on with our life and work to get in a better financial situation.

As part of our activity for Family Home Evening a few weeks ago, we made a little volcano with baking power, vinegar and other stuff. Here's a picture of the kids checking it out. It was funny because when we got it all ready, Thayne jumped down and went back by the hallway. He was nervous that it would erupt on him!

We hope all is going well with all of you.



Hi, Family! Christie's job is going well. She has a new friend named Glen. Jared is loving school. He has been to the zoo and really likes his field trips. Jenny is now the Laurel class president, the yearbook photo editor at school, has 18 college credits plus her High School stuff, volunteers at the library, has a job, and she's still smiling. She's about done with her Laurel projects. Cory is first counselor in the Deacon's quorum and is working hard on getting his bug collection complete for his science class. A good school day for him is when he doesn't have any math homework. Steve had another cancer spot removed off his forehead. He got his stitches out today and it looks good. I have been quilting Jenny's quilt and doing scrap books along with all the regular stuff. We are glad we're all safe. Love you all!

