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Happy Happenings

42nd Edition

Lawson & Kelly:

Tori had another litter of puppies. She had 3 girls and 3 boys. The kids love having puppies around the house and are having fun playing with them. Kelly and I are excited for when they're gone and we have the money instead! We think it's fun to have them around too, but exchanging them for money is ok too! We're hoping to get up on food storage better and to be able to finish our fence finally.

We had a niece & nephew on Kelly's side stay with us for a few days. Apparently they brought a little 24 hour stomach virus with them on their visit! They were both sick first, then Landon, Thayne, Cason, Lawson and finally Kelly! Tanner was the only one to make it through. Luckily it only lasted for a day for each of us. But once again it made us grateful for the good health we're blessed with most of the time.

We're back into soccer full swing again. The weather has made us change a couple of games and we've played a couple of times in cold and rainy weather. One of our practice days it was snowing hard! It's still been fun though and we're certainly not complaining about the rain. It's much needed and we hope it keeps coming throughout the summer - once a week on a Monday or something would be just perfect!

Thayne has had roller skate (with 4 wheels) for a long time. He got some real roller blades. He was so excited to tell me when I got home from work... "Dad I got roller skates with 3 wheels instead of 4!"

The 4th grade at Cason's school put on a play about how the west was really won. It was a lot of fun and they did a really good job. They had a party the day after where they got to take pillows and blankets and watch a movie, but that was the day Cason was sick so he had to miss it.



MAY 18 - BRITTNEY

MAY 19 - LARRY

MAY 28 - JEREMY

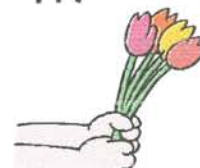
MAY 30 - DAD

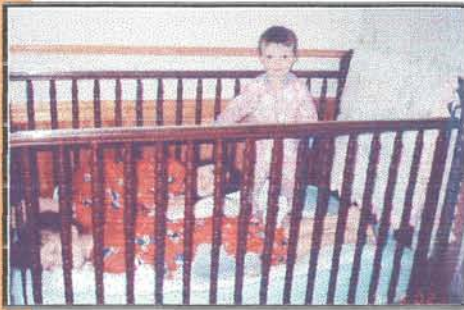
MAY 30 - AMY

"I say to you mothers, if you ever have sons and daughters who amount to what they should in the world, it will be in no small degree due to the fact that your children have a mother who spends many nights on her knees in prayer, praying God that her son, her daughter, will not fail."

- Harold B. Lee

Happy Mother's Day





Brittney and Hannah love to play in the crib with Aubrey.



*Rub-a-dub-dub,
three girls in a tub!!*



When we told the girls about the baby, we played "Blue's Clues" and hid three paw prints around the house with a burp rag, baby blanket and a bottle. It took them a minute, but they guessed it and were very excited.

Todd & Coreen:

We are enjoying our fourth beautiful New England spring. Brittney had a week of school vacation in April and the temperatures were in the 90's! The kids had a blast playing in the little pool in the backyard and we all enjoyed being together. We also went to Sturbridge Village which is a neat 1800's set-up where they plant and harvest, raise animals, and run all the shops like the sawmill, blacksmith, etc. It was a fun day. The weather has cooled back off quite a bit (for awhile anyway) and we've had lots of rain to make everything grow.

Aubrey is so fun! She loves her "Too-pee" (swimming suit) and she is constantly wearing other people's shoes. She just loves shoes and can even put several of hers' on by herself. She talks a lot and delights us all with the things she comes up with. She is doing well in nursery and is really growing up.

Hannah attended her Kindergarten orientation and is excited for the fall. School starts August 28 here. She continues to improve in her reading ability and amazes us all. She can read just about any of the children's books that we have. She will still attend preschool and story time for a couple of weeks, then we will move into the summer.

Brittney is counting down the days until her birthday. She had a friend birthday party last year so this year she gets to choose a fun family activity to do. She went ice skating for a friend's birthday party and came home totally wiped out. She had fun but got a sore on her leg and was so tired that it took her awhile to decide that she wants to try it again sometime. She gets out of school on June 20 so the summer vacation is only 9 weeks this year. Brittney went on field trips to the New England Air Museum, the Children's Science Center, and the university to see the play "Alice in Wonderland."

The pregnancy is going well and Todd and I are doing pretty much the same stuff as always. Todd went on another youth temple trip and went to the cannery while he was up in the Boston area. I am finally finished with the Independent Study class I was taking.

We love you and hope you're doing great.

Ceslie & Greg:

Hi from the Wilson's. Sorry you haven't heard from us for a while. We have been pretty swamped with work since getting back from the Canary Islands or we would have gotten something out sooner. We had a great time in the Canaries. It was a great place but was definitely too touristy. We went to Crete last year for spring break and it had lots of local culture and customs along with their touristy stuff. Where we were I didn't see anything but stuff for tourists. We did go to the capital city (Las Palmas) one day and that was definitely an old traditional Spanish city, but on our tip of the island there were just hotels. I don't know how much you guys are up on your geography but the Canary Islands are off of the west African coast. Morocco is the nearest country. They are Provinces of Spain because Spain discovered them years ago. I've never been a real beach bum but the beach was nice. The weather cooperated pretty well for us, we only had a little rain a few days. Europeans love the beach and tanning, there were thousands of them down there. We went with a doctor from the ward and his family. While he was walking around the beach he spotted several people with various stages of skin cancer. They have different customs as far as beach dress or lack thereof goes. I would say 90% of the women didn't wear tops but 80% of them really should have. If you had a topless beach in the U.S. only beautiful women would dare go there. That is not the case in Europe. Being over 50 and 50 Kgs overweight doesn't stop anyone from shedding their top over here. We went to a bird park one day and got our picture with parrots on our shoulders. The island was pretty dry, it was volcanic mountains with deep gorges. They had huge plastic covered 5 or 6 acre hot houses that they grew all kinds of stuff in. They were not for heat but for recycling water. The place we stayed provided breakfast and dinner. The breakfast was not that great, in most of Europe they give you meat, cheese, fresh bread, fruit and cereal. This place just had meat, cheese and bread. The dinners were good but they didn't have much of anything for desert. Just some canned peaches or something like that.

Rich and Amy went with another family to Turkey. They stayed at a ritzy all-inclusive resort that was like a cruise ship. They ate all they wanted

whenever they wanted 24 hours a day. They had armies of people in tuxedos waiting on them hand and foot. All Rich had to do is sit and look lonely and beautiful women that worked for the place would come out and talk to him. They had water skiing, scuba lessons, tennis lessons, and just about anything else you wanted available for free. Amy said she felt like she was filthy rich the whole time she was there. She wants to go back to that joint for her honeymoon some day.

Over Christmas we went to Slovenia. We were suppose to do a bunch of skiing but the snow did not cooperate very well. The country was very beautiful and everything was very cheap. The place we stayed was like a bed and breakfast. They provided breakfast and dinner. The breakfast was nothing special (they never are in Europe), but the dinners were great. We drove down to Trieste Italy one day and went to a very large cave another day. I'll let Leslie tell the story about driving in Trieste.

In February we went to Amsterdam just to see the place. We went on a tour and saw some windmills and even saw them make wooden shoes. They also showed us how they keep the land dry when it is all below the water level. The whole water pumping, dike, and damming system costs them tons of money. To finance it all they have a special tax - the locals call it their Dam Tax. We took a canal tour of the city which was really nice. The city itself was very beautiful but extremely trashy. Everything is legal there. We sat down to eat and the folks at the table next to us started lighting up joints and the smoke got thick. We had to move to another area. Most of the downtown area is the Red Light District. The Bible story of Sodom and Gomorrah could be applied to that place.

I dropped Rich off at the airport to go visit the University of Idaho. That is where he decided to go to school next year. He will go from here to Frankfurt to Denver then into Spokane where a shuttle will pick him up and take him to Moscow. He is still in sort of bad shape from getting all four wisdom teeth out last week. We got it done here for free, if we did it in the states the Army plan would only pick up 50%. The University has been great. They lined up everything to include a free dorm room for him while he is there. The Army pays for your college kids and high school seniors to take one round trip to their university each year. He is teaching Jeff's primary class and having a good time with it. The

primary presidency has to keep reminding the kids to call him Brother Wilson instead of Rich.

Amy is gone on a four day trip with the high school soccer team. They are going to play at SHAPE Belgium (NATO Military Headquarters), then on to Brussels which is NATO's political Headquarters. She is doing very well in school, all As last semester. She was accepted as a member of National Honor Society. She is looking forward to turning 16.

Brianna is doing well in school. She plays in the band and performs in the chorus. She has had some big projects in school. Her Science class built bridges and had a Science fair. She had to write a big essay for the D.A.R.E program and an Autobiography too.

Jeff is in cub scouts and having a good time with it. He is a red cross qualified medic after a one day course he completed. His class also had a Science expo but they had to invent something that would improve everyday life. His was called the Sudsmaster and it was a device that let you wash your hands and not touch the faucet.

After a lot of shifting around, it looks like we will probably be moving to Fort Belvoir Virginia this summer. At first it was New Mexico or Arizona, then it was Pennsylvania and we won't be sure until we are actually there. I have been trying to avoid the DC area but this does not sound as bad. It is 20 or so miles south of DC so I won't have the painful commute around the beltway. We'll see, though.

Leslie is busy teaching Seminary, working full time and going to the gym five or six days a week. She decided that since she is coming up on 40 soon, she needed to get into shape. She and her friend Angie are getting ready for the Science fair soon. They are the ones who started it two years ago when Leslie was teaching seventh grad Science. Until that time, the school hadn't had one for as long as anyone could remember. It is a lot of work but the kids really enjoy it. In addition to the Science fair, Leslie and Angie take them on a huge field trip to a big science museum in Munich. Well, there is a lot more to say but no time and no room. We hope to see you all this summer.

Lana & Aaron:

It was sure nice to have Mom & Lynn, the Pierson's, and the Dye's come for Broox's blessing. I guess that's why we have to keep having kids, because that's the only time we get visitors - just kidding! But it was really nice of you all to come and visit. Everything went well, but Brooks got sick and we had to take him to the doctor. He seems to be getting better. Mom and Lynn even stayed to help get some of the garden in, and thanks to the guys for building and to Laura and kids for filling the rolling shelves for food storage.

I'm getting ready to have Jaxon home for the summer. It will be nice to have the family back. Jaxon decided to move into the toy room and he sure has had fun setting his things up and getting things where he wants them. He was needing some space of his own. Well, sort of his own because we put a crib for Broox in there, but Broox seems good about leaving Jaxon's things alone.

Aaron has started irrigating again. It seems like he just stopped, but it's going again. The cows will leave the end of May and the whole summer farming thing will start for him.

Jancy has her first dance recital on May 18. It is so fun to watch her in dance practice, but I'm not sure how much performing she will do in her recital. We'll see.

Amberly is just an easy-going sweetheart. She is very happy and goes with the flow. She likes to help her dad & play with the new puppies.

I'm just busy trying to keep the house and backroom and yard clean and trying to keep everyone happy.

Mom & Lynn:

Well, another month in the saga of "Parents on the move." I'm sure we're making progress since we work hard every day, and I'm sure it will all be done some time. The big question is - when? And will we still be sane by then?

We have the Bountiful house on the market - for sale by owner - with a sign and flyers and ads in three papers. We get lots of calls, but have only shown the house once. So, everybody please pray that some wonderful family will show up, love it, and buy it quickly.

Yes, a mission is still uppermost in our minds and we're still moving in that direction. We may make a detour, however, if the orthopedist agrees to replace my knees. They are SO awful that I have come to it. I'm such a big coward and it's so scary to me, so pray that I can find the courage to go for it.

We love you all and hope to see most of you at the family reunion.



Congratulations
to the 2002
graduates!!

Rich, Tiffany,
Jenny, and
Melanie