

February

X
2003

50th

Edition

H
A
P
P
Y

H
A
P
P
E
N
I
N
G
S

LARRY, JILL & FAMILY:

The Arizona Burnett's are doing well. We had a very good Christmas, and New Years - hope you all had the same. We missed not being there, but really needed the quiet time. The weather here is great, we have had a lot of rain, the temperature here is absolutely perfect.

Tiffany had a a very good first semester in college. She took 4 classes, got A's in every one, and scored 100% on her math final. I think she should be able to keep her scholarship. She has a part time job at a group of Dry Cleaning stores that a couple in our Stake own - and is making enough to pay her car payment, and save some for a laptop. One of her good friends is getting married this week, she is one of the bridesmaids.

Heather ended up with a second letter for her swimming this year. I think I wrote last letter how well she did this year. Given that she is only a Sophomore, two high school letters are pretty good. She is starting track training which is just around the corner. She and several of her friends just signed up for EFX and are waiting to hear about that. For Christmas she got a membership to a gym, and she and her friends have been attending quite faithfully. She is also doing well in school.

Katelyn is also great. She continues to take piano, do well in school, and enjoy her life. She is planning on trying out for 9th grade Cheer in a couple of months - we believe she has been preparing for this her whole life. Her routine is to do cartwheels every time she has to go through the living room. She has a great group of friends right now, the only problem is, none of them are in the neighborhood. Jill spends a lot of time driving, but we believe it is worth it. Most of them are non-members, but are very good kids, all with very good values, and family support.

Nothing new with Larry and Jill. We are building on another floor at work - three years ahead of schedule. The hospital is doing incredibly well, and setting the standard for cardiology care already in the Valley. I have entered my 19th year with this company - that is the hardest thing to believe.

Hope you are all doing well, look forward to seeing you soon.

LISA, STEVE & FAMILY:

Hello, family! I am finding that my job as construction worker, electrician, builder, landscaper, etc. (all amateur, of course!) is keeping me pretty busy, along with trying to still be wife and mom and wedding planner and seamstress etc. Oh, what fun we are having!! The addition is going well, and yes - we are planning a wedding!! Christie and Dave are engaged and have set Thursday, April 17 as the date. We are working on invites so you'll get the details. We are excited and having fun planning things. Just wish I was finished with my building job so I could enjoy the planning more!! I'm certainly not complaining - life is good and we are all doing well. Cory is in the musical at the Jr. High - Fiddler on the Roof. That keeps him busy. Jared is happiest when he can watch all his construction videos - "Just rewind it again!" Cory and Jared will have their Eagle Court of Honor on Feb. 18. They had them earned last Sept., but it took awhile to get things scheduled. We love all of you and hope everyone is doing well!!

Good luck to Lawson, Kelly, and family! We hope all goes well with the arrival of your new little one this month.

Dear Cousins,

I feel somewhat awkward sending a newsletter submission, but I guess it isn't fair that every month I get to read from you all without your reading anything from me. Coreen made me promise to send a little something. Hope you all don't mind. I enjoyed so much coming for Caleb's blessing and getting to spend the time with my cousins.

Now the hard part. I hardly know what would be interesting news from my side of the family. My oldest, Joseph, turned 8 on January 14th and is absolutely obsessed with cub scouts. We are excited for him to be baptized on February 1st. When the Primary President came over to interview him, she introduced him to the Gospel in Action program. She asked him if he knew what a goal is and he didn't even hesitate to tell her that "a goal is an objective". I was very surprised at his knowledge! I had my 'proud-mommy' moment when he went up on Fast Sunday by himself to share his Testimony for the first time in Church. I was more nervous than he was, but I should have more confidence in my children. He did a very good job and came skipping back to his seat - all smiles. He told me he felt good.

Daniel, my 5-almost-6 year old, is the energy of our family. I think he inherited some of my Dad's talent for art, creativity, and drama. He has such an imagination. Daniel just lost his first tooth and he has some pretty good stories about what the Tooth Fairy is doing with that tooth. I felt so bad for Daniel this last Sunday. It was his turn to give a talk in Primary and he did such a good job and stood there so nicely - speaking so clearly. I never would have guessed what he was going through - but when he was done with his talk, he was standing in a little puddle around his shoes. Poor kid. Oh well... we all need one of those embarrassing experiences to talk about when we get older.

Ryan is 20 months now. He is a challenge. Someone told me unwittingly that he will be my extreme sportsman. He climbs up my built in drawers, he climbs up to the top bunk bed... and jumps off. That jump (or fall?) cost him, because now he is in a full-arm cast. He's so daring, and yet so needy. Our big accomplishment is that this last Sunday he actually stayed in nursery for a whole hour!

My husband is teaching the Gospel Doctrine class now. He really enjoys that, even if he has to fight tummy butterflies each time he teaches. I am 1st counselor in the Primary. And also committee member in the cub scouts. I like these callings, even if I'm a bit busy. My husband is the real jewel for how often he's the one tucking the kids in at night.

Garrett's job is becoming a bit more secure, for which we are feeling very grateful. Back in September, the parent company (based in Israel) went bankrupt and left a lot of debt for the American branches to clean up. The managers of Garrett's branch decided to head up a corporate buyout and break away to become an independent company. They asked all the employees (who survived the layoff) to take a 4 month 50% salary cut. February 1st marks the end of that 4 months. The company survived the buyout and the debts have been paid. Clients are coming forth and little by little we are beginning to relax a bit. We are Survivors!

My Dad and his wife, Arlene, are serving a mission in Germany. They were sent home in November - for Dad to have some medical tests. He had Pneumonia and they also worried about possible lung cancer. (Dad had forgotten that when he was in that horrible car-accident with Mom his lung was punctured and there would naturally be scar tissue in his lung.) The German doctors didn't consider this (despite all the scars on his chest) But the Salt Lake doctors asked him about it - he had no memory of his accident and so I had to confirm this. After a priesthood blessing, the pneumonia cleared right up (over night, it seems) and he was given a clean bill of health and shipped right back to Germany - a very unusual outcome, we are told, to be returned overseas rather than a relocation stateside. They will complete their mission in July.

Many of you received an update on the rest of my family at Caleb's baby blessing. Nothing of any major note to report - all are fine and well. Well - except I'd better mention that Tom has moved his family back to California from North Carolina. I have yet to receive and address for him.

I am including an e-mail address for each of my siblings, in case anyone would like to write and say 'hi'. I know they would like to hear from everyone. Much love to you all. - Sarah

Becky: litworker@aol.com
John: jwc6625@juno.com
Liz: lizstuff1@aol.com
Steve: spreeder@pacbell.net

Happy Birthday!

FEB. 10 - CORY
FEB. 13 - GREG W.

Feb. 22 - Lisa

Congratulations to
Christie & Dave on their engagement
and upcoming marriage on April 17!!

We wish Laura a speedy
recovery as her broken
ankle heals!!

Hello, Family! We are doing well despite a very cold New England winter (you may have seen us in the news). We have been in the teens and below for several weeks.

Caleb has sure been busy. Last month he reached out his arms to be picked up, grew his first two teeth, and rolled over both directions. He also had his first drink from a cup and ate his first solid foods. But not only hasn't he liked any of the food we've given him so far, but he let me know that he doesn't even like it when I eat chili (he wouldn't nurse well for two days!). Now he just needs to learn to sleep through the night! He has a head of cute, fuzzy hair and delights us all with his laughing and smiling. He loves the Johnny Jump-up and is the only one of our four that has liked it.

Aubrey conquered the potty-training business. We are proud of her and glad to only have to buy diapers for one now. We go to story time at the library and playgroup with our friends. Her favorite things in the world are Barbie's and dressing up. It's pretty much a waste of time to get her dressed in the morning (unless we are going somewhere right away) because she just gets of the dress-up clothes as soon as she can. She also likes books and "helping" me.

I told Hannah that we could spend a couple of hours (just the two of us) doing anything she wanted and she chose to go to the library. We enjoyed being together. The Principal at her school was visiting her classroom. He knew she could read so he asked her to read him a book and she did. She is less shy at school - what a relief! She is studying about the solar system and stars and she got to go to the Children's Science Center and see a laser light show about the stars at the planetarium.

Brittney and I had a fun time visiting the Wadsworth Atheneum, the art museum in Hartford. We spent a couple of fun hours together and she showed me around since she had been there on a field trip. She is in her second year of piano and doing very well.

Other news about our family: We have been doing an Article of Faith for FHE for the last few months and we are on #10. We are up to Jacob in the Book of Mormon. Our TV broke several weeks ago and we haven't replaced it. We didn't watch it much anyway but it's kind of interesting to see what life without any TV is like. It's actually very nice. I started teaching Brittney and Hannah some Spanish. I found a great book at the library that gave me many wonderful ideas about how to go about it and how to make it fun and keep it going. We really enjoy it and the girls can count to 20, name 12 colors, say the days of the week, say family words (brother, mother, etc.), and lots of phrases and miscellaneous words. I told them that when they learn 100 words and 30 phrases we will have a fiesta and they are about half way there.

Todd is counting down the days until his winter hike/campout with the scouts. He is preparing himself and them so they don't freeze. They plan to snowshoe in and camp, then snowshoe up a mountain and down the next day. We'll let you know how it goes. He is studying to take the Professional Engineering Exam in April.

We hope you are all well. We love you!

Love, Todd, Loreen, Brittney, Hannah, Aubrey, and Caleb

So, has everybody heard? We really put our mission application in! Now we're just camped out by the mail box. (Actually, we're *not* since we heard it can take up to 7 or 8 weeks for couples to get their call.) We did have some communication with a lady in the missionary department who said our papers would go to the apostle on February 7 and that we could expect the call the next week. So—we'll see.

Lynn and I had agreed that we wouldn't express any preference as to place or type of mission. So when we met with the Bishop and he asked us where we'd like to go we just said "anywhere." (Tracy told us *not* to say that! She's convinced we'll end up in South Dakota. Oh well!) But when we were talking to the Stake President and he asked if we had places we'd rather not go or someplace we'd like to go, I opened my big mouth. (Surprise, Surprise) I said that we'd really rather not go back to the Church Office Building and do the same things we'd just retired from. And that Lynn would really like to go to Brazil. Lynn gave me a look and said "I thought we weren't going to say that." I explained to the President that not only had he gone to Brazil on his mission but that he had been there several times since then when working on the pilot for the Perpetual Education Fund and that he'd *really* like to go there. The President said, "Good, I'll put that down." Now, what does that mean? Surely not that it's guaranteed since both of our doctors put in the papers that we shouldn't go where there isn't modern medical treatment available. Of course Lynn assures me that most of Brazil has at least "second world" rating. We'll see if the Brethren think we'd make a good fit there. I know it'll be terribly hard for me to learn Portuguese, (Lynn's been trying to teach me) but I'll do my best.

We enjoyed our anniversary trip very much. We left here on January 1st and stayed in Albuquerque the first night. We got to Leslie's house in San Antonio on the 3rd. We were so glad to visit with her whole family (Rich was still home for Christmas break.) We rented a van and went to Houston on Saturday. We visited my mother and daddy's grave in Forest Park Cemetery (pictures below). I had never seen the new companion headstone that I had set a few years ago. It was good to see that they are buried in a very well-cared-for place! We went on to Jacinto City and showed Leslie and her family the two houses she lived in when she was small. They didn't look quite so run down as I remembered from our trip there with Larry when mother died. Then for fun we went to the San Jacinto Battlefield to see the monument and the Battleship Texas. We wound up the evening with dinner at a restaurant. Those kids were sure good. They never complained at Grandma's nostalgic trip!

After a good visit with the Wilsons we took off going North, traveling through Oklahoma and stopping in Wichita Kansas for the night. The next day we traveled to Gaylene's house in Lincoln, Nebraska. We enjoyed a good visit with them. They have two little girls, Bailey 3 and Lauren 1. On Sunday we left for home, stopping by some of the National Park/Mormon Trail sites and detouring by Riverton to stay with Lana's family for a night. By Monday night we were back home safe and sound—over 3,000 miles traveled. We loved it! I think I have the wanderlust.

We love you all and hope you are praying for us. While the whole mission thing is exciting and we're anxious to

