

# HAPPY HAPPENINGS

Fall 2011 (August, September, October, November)

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## Jeremy, Tara and the rest of the Dyes

As usual, these last several months have been really busy for us. We didn't write for the last newsletter because we were in the process of buying a house and moving. Our new house is awesome. We're still in Richfield. In case anyone wants to send us gifts or something, our address is 900 S 940 W, Richfield, UT 84701. The house was built in 1981 and has 3,000 finished square feet, 6 bedrooms (the master suite is almost 600 sq ft), 3 bathrooms, a family room, a living room, a storage room, a laundry room, and a newly remodeled kitchen/great room. We love it. We're making some new friends in our new ward and keeping in touch with friends in our old ward that actually live closer to us now than they did before we moved.

In June, we (Jeremy, Tara, Savannah, Anthony, and Zac) spent a couple days hiking some slot canyons down Hole-in-the-Rock Road near Escalante. We hiked to Zebra Slot Canyon (5.1 miles round trip); we visited Devil's Playground, which is like a miniature Goblin Valley; we hiked up Peek-a-Boo Canyon and down Spooky Canyon (2.7 mile loop); then we hiked to Brimstone Canyon, Little Canyon, and Dry Fork Narrows of Coyote Gulch (8.1 miles round trip). We then went to Batty Pass Caves, which are some man-made caves that two German brothers in their 70s dug and lived in. We finished off the trip by visiting Anasazi Indian State Park.

Also in June, Tara and Savannah spent a week at Fish Lake camping with some of her friends.



*Our new home in Richfield, Utah*



*The Kitchen*





We spent the 24<sup>th</sup> of July weekend camping near Koosharem with some friends. The weekend after that we celebrated Savannah's first birthday. She did enjoy her cake.



In July, Greg, Laura, Jeremy, Tara, Savannah, Zac, and Zac's friend Bryce went to Yellowstone for a whole week. We saw pretty much every single hot pot, geyser, paint pot, and fumaroles on both loops. We also did a couple of longer hikes to some waterfalls and things. It was a lot of fun. We stopped in Teton National Park on the way home and did a short hike there.

In August, we did a couple mile hike here in Richfield that was sponsored by the stake activities committee. We thought it was pretty easy (some scrambling involved), but some of the older folk had a hard time and one older lady in our ward was in tears of discouragement before the end.

In September, at the Dye cabin in Scofield, we paved our own canoe trip down the river. The trip had tons of obstacles including several fences to go under/around/through, two waterfalls, lots of shallow portions, and about a million mosquitoes. It was a hoot.

On my way to complete a foundation inspection for work, I stopped and visited the Rochester Rock Art Panel. Talk about a lot of petroglyphs in one spot!

Our car broke down in Sandy on our way home from visiting family. Luckily Tara's sister lives in Sandy, so she could stay there while the car was being fixed.

Also in September, Zachary, Ondylyn, and I explored a new cave in the cliffs above Provo. It was about a 100' rappel into the cave, and that was the whole cave. Then we ascended back up.

On September 24, we moved into our new house.

In October, we went to the local corn maze for a date night. Savannah came too, and she even slept through the chainsaws that were chasing us.



One of the weekends, we left Savannah with a babysitter for Friday and Saturday, while we went to Zion with Anthony, Arianne, and Arianne's dad Kevin. On Friday, we hiked Pine Creek, which is a technical canyoneering route with several rappels, some long swims in 30-something degree water, and lots of wading and scrambling over boulders. We had full body wetsuits, so it was actually pretty pleasant.

After that 6-hour hike, Tara and I went and did Angels Landing (almost 1,500 ft elevation gain). We almost made it to the top before it got too dark to keep going. We ended up hiking down most of the way in the pitch black. Then on Saturday, we hiked Kanarra Canyon in Kanarraville. It was really beautiful with all the fall colors.

The weekend before Halloween, we ran the spook alley at the elementary school Halloween carnival. The kids had a great time. Then on Halloween, I manned the treat bucket while Tara took Savannah trick-or-treating. That's the first time in my life that I've ever handed out candy because usually I'm running the Not-So-Haunted House.



In November, we've mostly been working on projects around the house. We're almost done with the Pentomino shelves that we're building. Mom came down for a couple days, and she and Tara painted Savannah's room. We also went and saw the Golden Dragon Acrobats with some friends. They were pretty crazy.

We just got back from Thanksgiving, but you already know about that, so I won't bore you with those details.

And that's that.



**SUNDAY**

**11:00 church**

**Check in**

(Jeremy's working on accomodations - we're hoping for cabins with a large meeting room)

**Lunch**

**Service Project**

**Supper**

**Games & Puzzles**

**MONDAY**

**Breakfast**

**Grand Teton National Park \$20.00 per car**

**Jenny Lake** - either take a boat trip (\$10/adult, \$5/child) across & back, or take a beautiful 6 mi. round trip walk.

**Hidden Falls Hike** - 1.2 mi. round trip from boat dock

**Inspiration Point Hike** - opt 1 mi. moderately strenuous

**Picnic Lunch**

**Indian Art Museum** - free

**Glacier, Wilderness, and Columbine Waterfalls** - road

**Menor's Ferry, Cunningham Cabin, Lunchtree Hill** - about 1.5 mi. combined round trip

**Jackson Hole Shoot-Out** - 6:00, free

**Supper**

**F.H.E.**

**TUESDAY**

**Breakfast**

**Rafting, Grand Teton, or Jackson Hole**

\$120.00 per 12-man raft & 12 life jackets per day with Jeremy and Anthony as guides (\$65.00 per person for 1 run otherwise!) We can get 10-14 runs per raft and can do whitewater or calm runs as desired. Budget about \$10.00 per person for this activity - it may be way less if some only want to make 1 or 2 runs. We'll split into groups with a main meeting place - groups can do whatever they want. The National Park pass from Monday will still be good.

**Picnic Lunch**

**Raft or Grand Teton or Jackson Hole**

**Supper at BAR J WRANGLERS**

\$10.00-\$32.00 per person includes everything: village tour, meal, entertainment, tax, gratuity....

**WEDNESDAY**

**Breakfast**

**Grand Teton or Jackson Hole**

We need an idea when you want to go home so we can plan for this day. There are tons of things to do: hikes, rock climbing, mini golf (\$7.00), Alpine slide (\$9.00), hot air balloon rides (outrageous), Museum of Wildlife Art (didn't look super interesting), tram ride (what do you do when you get to the top of a ski run in July?), Grand Teton Music Festival (classical music in the park - might hit the fun mark for some), lots of shopping ....

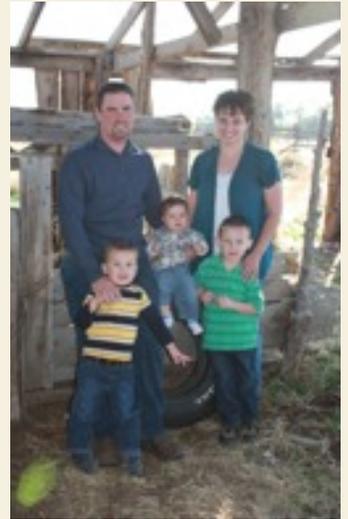
**Lunch**

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Larry - food assignments and reservations at BAR J** (we'll let you know if breakfasts are included)  
**Lisa & Lawson - F.H.E.**

**Leslie - ???** (The gift exchange doesn't seem to be an activity that brings the family closer together anymore. Should we try something new like drawing names for a "secret relative" or for a hiking buddy or for a dinner group or ????)

**Loren & Mom - Service Project** (If the gift exchange is discontinued we may want to pay per family instead of per couple and per adult child)



The Tangrens



Handwritten text on a small piece of paper, possibly a note or a signature, placed over the bottom right corner of the large group photo.

In Sept we enjoyed our annual youth waterfowl hunt. We woke up at 3:45am to get out and set up for it. Thayne and a neighbor boy were the kids hunting but Cason, Landon and a couple of other people went along as well. Also in Sept we hiked up to the inlet of Causey Reservoir to see the spawning Kokanee

Salmon. It's a fun little outing to get the kids out to see lots of bright, red fish.

I was able to get a few tickets for the priesthood session of conference and took Thayne and Cason. I was surprised Cason agreed to go but it was sure nice to have him there.

I was released from my calling with the stake young men presidency. I was put in as an 11 year old scout leader and that's been lots of fun. In Oct we went on an overnight campout at the cabin. Mom & Lynn timed things to be there as well and we took care of winterizing the cabin.



*Our dog, Bella*



*After the Priesthood session*

We were sure happy to get a call from Tanner telling us he'd decided to be ordained a Priest. The kids in the ward where he lives in Provo have been really good to fellowship him. He's active there and gets up and ready for church on his own since the family he lives with is Tongan and goes to a different ward. We had a very nice day there with Tanner and the many ward members, friends and family who were able to be there and support him in his decision.



*Tanner's ordination*

Meg was sure excited for Halloween! She kept reminding us how many days until we could get the decorations out and was so excited to finally be able to decorate. I had fun trick or treating with her and her little friend. They were having lots of fun chatting and playing around. They didn't get as much candy as they could have but had a lot of fun.

Landon finished football. He decided he wanted to try wrestling. It was only for a month and he paid for half of it. He enjoyed it but we're ok that it's over because when you have a match you have to wait so long and when your turn finally comes it's over so fast!

Thayne made us nervous getting 2 concussions. The

first was playing football at school. He didn't say much and we didn't know. The next day he had a soccer game and got hit pretty hard from behind and blacked out. Kelly took him to the doctor and they said he had 2 concussions. He had to sit out of soccer for a couple of weeks. Thayne was recently put in as a counselor in his Teachers quorum.



Thayne had a rifle deer tag this year. We went up in the Logan Canyon area. We had an enjoyable time camping and hunting but didn't even see any bucks.



Tanner was home for a visit and he, Thayne and I went for a mountain bike ride. Thayne and I stopped to wait for Tanner and when he didn't show up after a few minutes we went back to find that he had taken a nasty spill! He put his foot down on a tight turn and mistakenly put it on the downhill side. His foot slipped in the loose rock and he went over and down a very steep part of the mountain. He was scraped up pretty bad but he's a tough teenager and didn't think he needed to get checked out. He was more worried about his favorite shorts getting bloody!

Kelly also had another sports related accident! She tore a ligament in her foot. She'll go in for an MRI to find out how bad it is. Worst case she'll need surgery to fix it.



There you have the good and the bad from our family!



*This is the front of our house*

Hi from the SNOW BIRDS or from the SNOW WHITE BIRDS or from the WHITE SNOW BIRDS—take your pick!

Here we are in a new home in Arizona! Weird! But good! It all happened in such a whirl that it's hard to believe it really happened at all! But it did and we're loving it!

It all started when Lynn was so down in his back in August and September. I told him that someday if it gets *really* bad we should just go south for the winter. At that time he was so incapacitated that I was doing all the housework, lifting, and driving to all the doctor appointments as well as helping him get up and dressed etc. He was only able to walk with a walker and I couldn't imagine what the winter with snow and ice would bring.

I mentioned it to Leslie and Loreen as a possibility for the distant future and they both totally took me seriously. It was kinda strange but I was not serious at all—not for this year anyhow. But wow, things got rolling. Leslie said "Why not?" and it started me thinking. My best answer was "It just seems so complicated—lots of decisions to make." And right then I

couldn't imagine making those decisions—I was too loaded down with all the things I had to plan



*This is the view from our front door.*

and arrange and do.

However, as we thought more, I made a “pros” and “cons” list. On the “pros” I had things like “not have to drive in snow and ice,” “not be so cold.” But then, like a helium balloon rising in the air, “BEING CLOSE TO KIDS AND GRANDKIDS” began to be the overarching reason! We could be with different children and grandchildren—ones we’d never lived close to. AND, as I talked to Loreen it was so obvious that she really wanted us to come and when Larry said “Come on down and live in our house on Glade-- free,” I knew that this was a privilege and a blessing being presented to us. A “tender mercy.” A blessing from Heavenly Father. I reasoned too that we didn’t have to defend our decision based on with a “rational” reason; we could do it *because we could*. *Because we wanted to!*

All we had to do was give the nod to Loreen and things happened *fast!* On Monday, September 19, Loreen went to Mesa to see some apartments I had found on the web. She was *not* encouraged. But I picked out more and she planned to go Thursday. On Thursday

morning she called and said, “Don’t get your hopes up but I’m going to look at a guest house for rent in our ward.” It seems that in a conversation with a friend the friend had casually said, “Know anyone who might like to rent a guest house?” REALLY! Coincidence? I don’t think so!

She walked through, took videos, e-mailed them to us and by Friday September 23, Loreen had signed a lease agreement! And get this: Lease to commence October 21, 2011! ONE MONTH!

We were right in the middle of a comprehensive evaluation for Lynn at the University of Utah. We both had dental work and doctor’s appointments, pacemaker check for me. I got an infection at the dentist’s office, took a strong anti-biotic and got a terrible burned esophagus which caused ulcers all the way down to my tummy. We had to winterize the cabin at the Summit and wrap the trees so the deer wouldn’t eat them. We had Tanner’s ordination. Wow was that a busy and stressful time. But, here we are and we feel good about it, feel like it’s where



*We had a nice lunch by the Salt River with Loreen.*



*Welcome to Arizona!!*

we're supposed to be at this time and we're glad for the feeling!

So, I'm continuing this after Thanksgiving. Wow, what fun we had with nearly all our kids and grandkids with us. *That was a lot* to be thankful for! Thanks to Laura and Greg once again for hosting us all. They do it so well and we all feel so welcome and comfortable when we're there. You're lifesavers, Dyes, since this Grandma doesn't have such a wonderful large place for us.



I am continuing with my training at the Family History Center and will graduate this Friday. Then I'll just be going twice a week to help patrons. It's a busy time with Coons kid's Christmas concerts and recitals and Christmas parties at Church and the FH center and we love it! It has been toasty warm the last few days but we know that can't last forever. Even so, it's a lot easier for us to get around here and we're taking advantage of that. We're with the Coons often and will be with the Burnetts on Sunday!

We have a great Bishop here. When we went for tithing settlement he showed so much care

and concern for us and our situation. He suggested that he would fast and pray for Lynn's health and join with Todd in giving Lynn a blessing on Sunday! Then we knelt and he prayed for us like I've never been prayed for before. It was powerful and spiritual and I felt absolutely **blessed!** So—what's not to love about being here? Well, we miss the rest of you like we miss the Burnett and Coons family when we're there. Guess you can't have everything. But, hey, we're still very close if you *call!* I'd love to hear from each of you often.

We love you all to pieces! *Mom & Lynn*



*Amy, Leslie, Leah, and Loreen's arm.*



*Great-Gma and Savannah*

# THE SORENSENS

Hello family. We had a great Thanksgiving trip, and it was good to see so many of you. We have a great family. We are all doing good. I can't believe the Christmas season is already here. I enjoy having young kids a Christmas to help keep the excitement for the season. Our December looks busy, like everyone else's I'm sure. Some ladies in the Branch are having a baby shower for me on Saturday- my first one. Aaron bought a piece of ground, and is building a house on it for his winter project. I let him know not to expect much out of me, but it is good for the kids to learn how to work and build from their dad. Jaxon is playing Basketball, and Jancy is starting in January, so we will get to watch a lot of basketball. We hope everyone has a great Christmas Season. We love you all.



*Landon, Brittney, Zac, Jaxon and Jeremy*



*Caleb, Broox, Landon and Dixon*



*Hannah, Meg, Jancy and Aubrey*





Lately Caleb and Aubrey have been collecting Squinkies. They go on the tops of pencils but they have multiple uses, as you can see.



This is a picture of the Gilbert Temple under construction. It has been neat to watch it go up. Anticipated completion is 2013.



In Oct. Todd ran a 5K (3rd in his age group). The rest of us did a 1 mile. Caleb ran it in 7:33 and got 3rd in his age group (males under 19).



*Caleb is a legomaniac just like Cory. He loves to build ships from his own designs.*



At Caleb's soccer game. We love having Gma & Gpa here, also known as Graham Cracker and Gramp Cracker.



Aubrey was in the School Spelling Bee



Gma & Gpa helped us get some chicks. And now that the dogs have shock collars, they leave the chicks alone.



Here we are visiting Grandma and Grandpa Burnett in the nursing home in Kanab. He was happy to see us and we really did enjoy our visit.



Brittney's Aunts Lisa, Laura and Leslie helped her finish her quilt and sew sleeves on 2 formal dresses. Thanks!!



Who are those crazy ladies out shopping in the middle of the night?



We loved singing with Lawson and his guitar.





*Celebrating Grandpa's Birthday at Pioneer Park*



*Derek, Katelyn, Jon and Heather after Caleb's soccer game.*

Hello Family and Happy Holidays! I can't believe that it's already December!

Everything is going great with our family. We are all staying very busy and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Tiff and Drew's baby girl who is supposed to make her debut around December 12th. We recently had a baby shower for them which was very fun. All of their family and friends were there to celebrate and we all had a great time!

We also had a great Thanksgiving this past week. Heather, Dad, Mom and I spent the morning running the 10K (6.2 mile) Turkey Trot out by our house. We definitely worked off half the calories we ate later that day and it was well worth it. We spent lots of time with family and had some luck hitting up a lot of the Black Friday deals around town. I'm not sure how that day got to be so crazy, but luckily we avoided most of the crowds.

Dad is still traveling on a weekly basis. Mom is still working at the school. Tiff and Drew are working and getting for the arrival of their baby. Heather and Jon are busy working and taking care of their dogs and Derek and I are busy working, going to school and planning our upcoming wedding (which we hope to see a lot of you for!)

We wish you all a very Happy Holiday and look forward to seeing some of you in March!



*Tiffany & Drew's baby shower - Gpa, Gpa, Derek, Katelyn, Drew, Tiffany with Heather and Jill on the right*

We've had a busy couple of months, not by some standards, but we feel busy, so that's all that counts, right? In October we were worried that Rich was going to Iraq. He was supposed to go to Ft. Benning on October 18 for some training then to Iraq a few weeks later. We only had a couple of weeks notice that this was happening, he called one weekend and after being on the phone for 20 minutes or so said that he was thinking of coming to visit the next week since he was headed to Iraq. I pride myself on taking these things in stride and when he went to Afghanistan I didn't really worry too much about him except every once in a while, but this time I really didn't like the idea much at all. He didn't get to come and we really didn't even talk to him that much before the 18th, but I told myself it was okay because he'd be in Georgia for a while and we could talk to him then. The day he left Greg came home and told me that the President had given a speech that day and said that all troops would be out of Iraq by January. We didn't talk to Rich that day, but a couple of days later we talked to him and he was at Ft. Lewis! He said that he was in the Atlanta airport waiting for his flight to Columbus and Ft. Benning and was paged and told to call on the white phone. They told him to get on the next plane to Washington because he wouldn't be going to Iraq. He was really disappointed, but I was glad.

Also in October we had our annual Halloween party for the Cadets. Every year Greg says that we're not going to

have it this year and every year two or three cadets tell him how much they're looking forward to it, so we always have it. This year we were Princess Leia, Han Solo and Chewbacca. We sprayed temporary hair dye on Zoey to make her brown and I made her an ammo belt that she would not keep on. When it was over and we gave her a bath, the temporary dye didn't wash completely out and she was kind of pink for a while.

I'm still working and working out. I've added running to my routine and I'm thinking of running a couple of races next year. I kind of had always wanted to run, surrounded as I am by runners, but I never really thought I could because of my knees. When we read the book "Born to Run" and Greg started running "barefoot" (it's actually a minimal running shoe that let's your feet do what they would do if you were running barefoot but offers protection from rocks and stuff,) I started thinking maybe I could too. I don't wear the five finger shoes like Greg wears because they're so freaky looking, but I wear Merrill barefoot shoes and my knees are fine. I didn't really know how much I'd always wanted to run a half marathon or something until it became a possibility, but now I'm really excited to. There's the Mesa Falls half in August and a relay in September that I want to do, so I'll keep everyone posted on that.

My job is going well, I really like working in the little shop and seeing people and helping them. I really like all the people I work with, they are genuinely nice

people. The owner, Cindy, is one of the nicest people I've ever met, but she's in a really sad situation. Her first husband died in June 2010 in a rafting accident on a scout trip. She married her current husband, Rick, in June 2011 and in August he had a series of seizures that we're caused by what has turned out to be a very aggressive brain tumor. They were down at the Huntsman Center from September to November and did surgery and chemotherapy. They came home the first of November and two weeks later he started having seizures again. The cancer has spread all throughout his brain and last week they found it in his spinal cord. It is so sad to see them go through this. Only one other girl and I were hired after they went to Salt Lake and the others seem almost like family. Sometimes I feel like an intruder but I really feel for them so much. It really makes me count my blessings.

There have also been changes in Greg's job recently. Another company bid for the contract and got it and since then the news hasn't been very good. He still loves his job and is grateful to have it, but he is no longer authorized to wear his uniform, he took a fairly substantial pay cut, we can't contribute to his 401k for a year and other annoying things. To top it all off, it's official: this year, 2012, is the last year he'll be going to Fort Lewis for the summer. That doesn't sound so bad, right? Yes, except that it will now be held at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and he'll be out in the miserable heat for six weeks every summer. That's okay, we're still counting our blessings.

Jeff has been transferred to the Capital, which is good in many ways. There are more people to teach and they are a lot more educated, so they are easier to teach. The electricity and water are about the same or a little worse, which surprised me, but Jeff wants everyone to know that you don't really need electricity. You need water, but you don't necessarily need it to come out of a tap.

Brianna will be home on February 1st. Our Christmas phone call will be right at the beginning of her last transfer. We are excited to have her home, but in the meantime this will be our first Christmas alone. Amy and Tyler are going to San Antonio this year, Rich is staying in Washington and Bri and Jeff are on missions. We both have to work so we won't be going anywhere else, but we're making plans to do some fun things. One thing for sure, we'll spend Christmas morning on the phone!

We really enjoyed spending time with you all at Thanksgiving. I enjoyed the time I spent helping Brittney make her winter formal dress modest. What was really cool though, was how Laura swooped in like a superhero and saved me at the end. It was really wonderful to see her come in and so quickly and efficiently finish the part I had been struggling with. Thank you Laura!

We hope to see some of you in February for Brianna's homecoming. We're thinking it will be February 12th, but we don't have confirmation on that yet, so we'll have to let you know. We love you all.