

May 2003

# Happy Happenings

3rd Edition

## Lana & Aaron:

Hello, family! It was good to see most of you at Mom and Lynn's "send-off." We are going to miss them. We are doing well. Aaron is feeding cows, irrigating, taking care of sick calves, so he stays busy. We tore out our front yard and put some sod in. We got it from the sod farm Aaron used to work at in Utah. It was a little bigger project than we bargained for but it will be nice.



Jaxon is getting ready for summer break. He is done May 23<sup>rd</sup> so that will be nice. He played basketball with the school. It was very low key. They didn't keep score or call fouls but he loved it. He had a good birthday and a fun party after school with his friends. Jancy lost her first tooth. She pulled it out all by herself. She likes to go to preschool and play with her friends and help Mom. Amberly is quite a girl! She is our first child that isn't shy at all and that is different for us. She'll go to about anyone and talk as long as they'll listen. She is good to do her own thing or to play with others and is pretty happy no matter what. Broox is all boy. He loves to go with Dad in the tractor or on his horse. He loves to make tractor or truck noises and is a sweetheart. I just stay busy trying to keep up with everybody else.

## Todd & Loren:

We've been staying busy, as usual. Caleb has had a rough few weeks. He is teething and has a cold that turned into an ear infection (his first!!) so he hasn't quite been himself. He's quickly becoming more mobile. He crawls backwards a little and scoots and moves around. It's cute to watch. He's so fun and adored by all.

Aubrey is still coming up with new ways to amuse herself like painting the walls and doors with yogurt, taking all the toothpicks out of the container and putting them all over the counter and in places like the cinnamon container, throwing everything out of her crib (sheets, clothes, diaper, EVERYTHING) when she's not in the mood to have a nap, and many other things that amaze us all.



Brittney and Hannah had 10 days off school for Spring Break. We went to the Butterfly Conservatory in Massachusetts with our Playgroup. We had 38 people in our group! The place was amazing! It's a huge greenhouse with beautiful plants and flowers and 3,000 butterflies!! They are all sizes and colors and they fly right around you and land on you sometimes. There was a pond with huge bright-colored fish. The place was beautiful and it was a neat experience.

We're preparing for Brittney's baptism on May 18. We are teaching the kids the discussions for Family Home Evening. We had the missionaries come over and teach the one about baptism and they really did a good job. We are inviting our neighbors and other nonmembers to the baptism and hoping they will come. The missionaries will do a presentation on the First Vision after the baptism while Brittney is getting dressed. We're really looking forward to it!

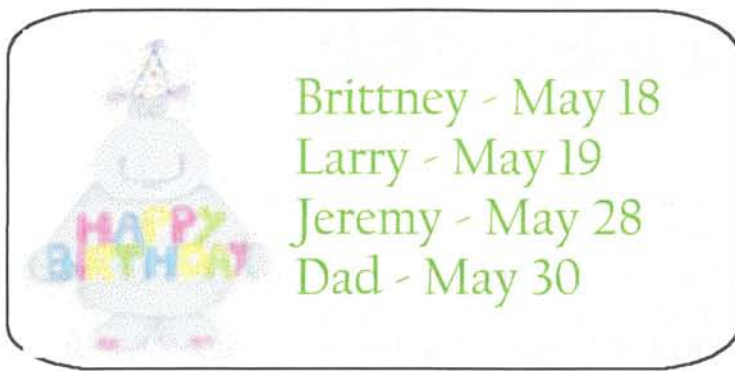
I'm still teaching the girls Spanish. Lately they have learned animals, parts of the body, clothes, some grammar, and other things.

We went to Boston for a fun family trip. Todd was off work on Good Friday and there was a Priest/Laurel temple trip so we all went up in the morning, I went through a session, then Todd stayed with the youth the rest of the day. We checked into the Marriott that is by our friend's (The Cranes) apartment in Cambridge. The Cranes went swimming with us and we had dinner with them. The next day we went swimming, then went on a Trolley Tour all day. It's a great way to see Boston because the drivers are very informative and you can get off wherever you want, then catch the next trolley. We went inside The Old North Church where they hung the two lanterns to warn that the British were coming by sea, we saw Paul Revere's house and the U.S.S. Constitution ("Old Ironsides"), Todd and the girls climbed up to the top of the Bunker Hill Monument (294 steps), and we went to Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall. We all enjoyed the trip and are glad that we finally got to see more of Boston.



Todd took the P.E. Exam. He had to be there from 7 am till 5 pm and it was a bear to take. He doesn't get results for 12 weeks (don't ask us why it takes so long).





### Mom & Lynn:

Well, here we are at the Senior MTC. We've had a very spiritual week though quite exhausting. Each senior missionary spends a week learning to find people to teach, give the first 2 discussions, work with new or less active members, work with ward and branch leaders through councils. Interspersed through all that are wonderful spiritual videos and testimony meetings. After you practice the principles in class and on your companion and then with your companion, they have volunteers who come to your room to be "taught." So we had some great experiences "teaching" people from the Provo area.

Two of our experiences were especially remarkable. Of course the "investigator" came playing a role and tried not to slip out of that character. We taught the first discussion to a sister and I'm afraid it was a disaster. We were so uptight trying to give it exactly the way we'd been taught, we stumbled and stammered and were pretty embarrassed with the presentation.

By the second day-second discussion we had practiced depending on the Spirit and relaxing a little and I thought it went very well. We taught that one to a man who pretended to be a Methodist and it was a pretty good experience.

We taught another missionary couple who were pretending to be a young couple with two rowdy boys and a couple of dogs. We taught them about eternal families and helped them have family home evening. During the presentation, the man said that when they blessed his baby he didn't have a shirt and tie so he stood at the back of the room and felt uncomfortable. I leaned forward in my chair and told him how sorry I was that that had happened but I expressed my true belief that Heavenly Father really loves him and wants him to come back to Him. To my surprise both he and his wife shed tears. Later they told us that the couple they were pretending to be is really her niece and they intend to use some of my suggestions when they visit with her on their way to their mission. (I had stapled the title 'FRIEND' to

the front of an Ensign and presented it to them to use with their boys. I had also taped the words "Bobcat Cub Scout Book" to one of my gospel books and I gave that to them together with the name and number of the Cub Scout Leader, Sister Dye. Sister Dye, I told them you'd loan them a shirt for their boy. I also set the guy up with my son, Larry Burnett, to go golfing at 7:00 a.m. this Saturday.) It was great that they testified that our suggestions and Spirit were inspired.

One of the sisters who came to our room said that her only daughter died 5 years ago and she has been having a real struggle adjusting to the shock and keeping her faith. Her only son lives in Texas and is not all that active either. Her husband died about 10 years ago. As we worked with her, trying to find comfort, Lynn read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm to her and it seemed to help. Well, it turned out that she wasn't pretending. When she said that her son is moving to Austin Texas soon and that she hopes someone from the ward will contact him, I suggested that as soon as she knows his address, she contact the Bishop and ask him to be sure that her son is contacted. I told her how she could go on the Church web site and asked if she is familiar with getting on the computer. Well-and this was a shock-she's legally blind and can't use the computer. SO, I gave her our toll-free number at the office in Dallas and she's going to call and tell me her son's new address. Then, I'll go to the locator on the web site, find the Bishop's name and call her back. Can you believe it?

Today our assignment was to help members find either non members or less actives to fellowship. Our lady really made a goal to contact a sister who has made a pretty big mess of her life. Sister Billings taught her as a Laurel and since then the lady, Cheryl, has been married 4 times and has a pretty sordid life. As I was reminding her of the experience Lehi had in partaking of the fruit of the tree of life and feeling so much joy he wanted to share it with his family, Sister Billings said, "I know what I will tell her. I'll tell her that her mother (who is dead) feels concern for her, because that's how I feel!" I gave her our address and she's going to let us know if Cheryl responds.

Well-that's what they do in the Senior MTC. Some of their techniques are new and come as a result of the brethren's requests that we do a better job as senior missionaries. I hope we won't let them down.

And no-the food's not very good, but we are gaining weight. We can only eat in the cafeteria, only



in our missionary clothes and we can't take food back to our room. So-picture this. We're in an old motel room-no phone, no TV and no food! Not exactly a vacation-but it's OK. We have come back home 3 times to exercise. Tonight (Friday, April 25) we came home and had shrimp cocktails, baked potatoes and strawberries and cool whip. It feels great to be at "HOME" - but, tomorrow it'll be Christie's and Dave's.

We love you all very very much. I sure got sad the last few days before we went into the MTC. I hate the idea of you kids and grandkids getting along without me. But I'm sure it'll be worth it.

Some of you have asked how you can contribute to our mission. Well, it'll be easy to get it to the credit union and if you decide you want to, it'll be very helpful. We bank at Deseret First Credit Union and our account number is #327149. You can mail it to them at: DESERET FIRST CREDIT UNION Post Office Box 45046 Salt Lake City, Utah 84145 or deposit it at the branch in Bountiful or Orem, ZCMI Mall or the main Credit Union on 2<sup>nd</sup> West in SLC.

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## Larry & Jill:

Thought we should send a picture of our new toy. We have been waiting a long time for this - a BMW 330i. Quite a car. My Pathfinder has been a very good to us - it has 188k miles on it now - time for retirement.



We had a very good time at the wedding and the farewell- it was good to see all of you - sorry we could not see Todd/Loreen and Greg/Leslie. We will look forward to the reunion - just let us know where we will be meeting. We enjoyed the additions to the houses there - both Steve/Lisa and Greg/Laura have done a great job.

Work for me continues to go well - we are expanding another Heart Center, and the CEO, CFO and I will likely be asked to run this in addition to our current hospital. I am not sure how I feel about this yet - you all remember that I covered multiple hospitals before in my career, and it is not always fun. I am still in the High Council, and we are getting ready for a new Stake President. We have been "summoned" (the word on the letter) to have an interview with Elder Nelson the Saturday before the meeting. I am looking forward to this, and nervous at the same time. We are supposed to have names in our mind to recommend, it has been enjoyable to see how different parts of the church work. I will fill you in after the experience - but be thinking about us until June 15th.

Jill has had her contract renewed for next year, and is doing well at work, and in her calling as Relief Society Secretary.

Tiffany is looking forward to school being over for the semester - she is doing well. She is still working at the Dry Cleaners, and saving for a laptop. We are taking a family trip to San Diego this summer - she is looking forward to that. San Diego has become her favorite city. She is looking to marry rich - so let us know if you have ideas.

Heather is in track now, and loves her gym membership. She is over there faithfully 3-4 times per week, and is definitely our best athlete. She will participate in the summer swim program again, improving her skills for the High School team. She already has three letters, and looking for more. She will be 16 in July - and looking forward to driving and dating. She and her friends are going to Flagstaff for EFY.

Katelyn made Junior High cheer - along with several of her best friends. This has been very important to her for quite a while, so we are very happy for her. She is already practicing two times per week, and will have intense practice sessions through the summer. She will be coming to Provo for EFY - and planning to stay with Steve/Lisa for a little while anyway. Both girls are almost through with their Young Womens goals - I think this program has been very good for them. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon. The Burnett's



## Lawson & Kelly:

Meguire continues to be fun to have around the house. She is such a good little baby. She seems happier than I remember any of our kids. She smiles and giggles a lot. She's growing like a little weed too!

Landon's new word is 'Yes!' He got to where he'd say 'please' really well. You'd ask him if he wanted something and he'd say please. So I got him to say yes, but for quite a while he'd just whisper it really soft. Then he started saying it louder and sometimes we wish he'd go back to being soft! When he wants something he yells 'Mommy, Daddy' back and forth until he gets what he's after!

Thayne still likes to suck his thumb. Kelly told him he could get a new bike if he stopped. He asked her the other day when he was getting his new bike. Kelly asked if he had stopped and he said 'mostly.' A few minutes later he was on the couch sucking his thumb! I suppose it will happen eventually. He's having fun with soccer and is a very good little player.

Tanner and I went to one of the Jazz playoff games against Sacramento. It was a lot of fun and I'm glad we picked the game we did because it was the only one the Jazz won in that series! Tanner's enjoying soccer too.

Cason has been enjoying scouts. He got his Tenderfoot the other night. He's doing well with his competitive soccer and enjoying it most of the time. One of the guys helps them with conditioning and Cason's not a big fan of him!

Kelly's glad Meguire is sleeping better at night now. She still gets up once or twice but that's a lot better than the first while! Kelly is back to teaching her young women's class at church. She enjoys that.

Dad and Connie have stayed with us a few more times lately. Dad is nearing the end of his cancer treatment. This next week he has the last big, bad stuff. Hopefully it will all result well.

Overall things are going very well for us. Life is very busy and I think that makes it seem to pass so quickly. I wish it didn't pass so quickly but there doesn't seem to be much to do about that. We're looking forward to summer and doing things outdoors. We hope we can work it out to get together with everyone this summer. Love you all.

"The treasure house of happiness is unlocked to those who live the gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity and simplicity."