



December 2006

Happy Happenings

89th Edition

The Coons Family:

Todd played a few church softball games in November. He even took Caleb once and Caleb loved being there with all the big guys. Todd also took ~~him~~^{Caleb} to his parents' house on Thurs., Nov. 9 and they took Todd's dad, Bob, fishing all day Friday, then came back on Saturday. While they were gone the girls and I went to the Phoenix Art Museum and spent a few hours looking around there. We enjoyed it. That night we watched the movie "Akeelah and the Bee" about a girl in a spelling bee. We chose that one because Hannah was in the school spelling bee! She did very well and ended up tying for sixth place!

Todd and I went to a play with a couple from our ward. It was performed at the Hale Center Theater (it's a theater in the round - there is one in Orem) and saw "Brigadoon."

Aubrey is taking a sign language class twice a month before school. She has liked sign language for a long time.

Going to Utah for Thanksgiving was a fantastic trip for us! We spent a few days at Dad's helping them out a bit. I also finished going through all the pictures of our Burnett and Easley ancestors with Dad (there are hundreds) so I am ready to scrapbook them. We also found lots of names and information that we don't have in our genealogy.

We loved cooking at Laura and Greg's and then having Thanksgiving dinner there with so many loving family members around. Shopping from 3 am to 3 pm with "the girls" was a great time! We love you all so much and were glad to see those who were there.



(Left) Hannah, Jancy and Brittney getting ready for bed
(Right) Seeing the lights at Temple Square with Grandma and Grandpa.



The Sorensen Family:

It was great to see everybody at Thanksgiving. We're on our way to Salt Lake for Rix's surgery. Thanks for your prayers. Keep 'em coming! Thanks to Mom and Lynn for taking care of the kids.



The Wilson Family:

Hello from Arizona. This has been a very big month for the Wilson's. All but two of us are back in Arizona. Jeff is doing great things in Anasazi. He is North of Scottsdale in the Bloody Basin. Leslie Greg and Brianna are back in Sierra Vista. It has been great having Leslie back again!!! She has been walking about 10 miles a day and studying scriptures and writing in her journal. It's amazing what you can get done when you're not teaching high school math. I put in my retirement papers and will be leaving the U.S. Army this summer. Brianna will be going up to Utah with Leslie and Jeff after this semester so I will move out of Army housing into a trailer. The place isn't that bad it's mostly older folks and the manager is nice enough. I will be counting down the days and trying to get ready to face the world. I will have a class on resume writing among other things.

Rich is now in Korea. We haven't heard from him yet but we assume he made it safely. We sure wish he could have joined us at Thanksgiving but he just could quiet get it all to work out. It looks like he will initially be going to Camp Red Cloud up near the demilitarized zone (DMZ). He ended up doing very well in Artillery school. He was worried at first but he ended up finishing in the top 10% of his class.

Amy is so excited to go on her mission that on the 30th of Nov. exactly 6 months from her birthday, she downloaded her mission papers. She will submit them at the end of February and be ready to leave the end of May. She is doing well in School. She has her Uncle Eric for one of her professors. He said she is one of the smartest kids in the class.

Brianna is busy with school and her clubs. Last Saturday she went to Phoenix with the robotics club. The guys and girls formed separate teams and the guys' robot won everything but the girls' was much cuter. They nicknamed him Toaster. Too bad there was no award for cuteness. Toaster did well, but it just didn't win anything. The competition was a game where the robots had to get balls into either a low goal or a high goal. It was called "Hanging Around" and if the robot was able to hang on a bar, they got a lot of points. The guys' robot was the only one at the competition that was capable of hanging on the bar and the only one able to get any balls into the high goal. They pretty much swept all of their matches.

Leslie and Greg will be going out on the trail with Jeff on Tuesday for family camp. We have a packing list that is very strict, only minimal gear and no soap, toothpaste, lotion etc. Luckily, we have a couple of frame backpacks (which is more than Jeff has had) or Leslie doesn't think she would make it. It will be a real adventure for her to sleep on the ground with no air mattress. We will be with him for 3 days and 2 nights and then be back at Loreen's house for showers on Thursday night. We are all so excited to be together again and start building our relationships again. We love you all and thank you for your prayers.

The Utah Burnett Family:



At the beginning of November we had a scout campout at Crystal Hot Springs in Honeyville (about 30 miles North of us). They have several different hot pools of varying temperatures and a water slide. The boys all went down the water slide over and over. It was so cold but I finally did it once and then ran back to the warm water! The following morning we did a 15 mile bike ride there in that area.

Kelly was in charge of the Reflections contest at the elementary school here again this year. They had their awards recently. Landon, Thayne and Tanner all participated. Kelly's glad it's over!

We sure enjoyed Thanksgiving at Laura's with all the family. Thanks to Laura and Greg for their hospitality and to everyone who helped with all the yummy food.

Tanner and I did an overnight campout up Ogden Canyon. It was very cold, but I told Tanner it was good practice for our upcoming winter campout which is usually much colder. Once we got in our sleeping bags we were plenty warm so we stayed in them from about 9pm till 8:30am the next morning! We were able to do some exploring, shooting and fishing. We saw a lot of fish but it was a little cold for them to want to eat so we didn't catch any.

Mom and Lynn:

Hello Family and Merry Christmas

As of this time (written December 3) we still don't have a mission call. We did find out that there was a mix-up and the Stake President probably didn't forward our application to SLC until about November 18. So—we're still waiting! We've lost a little of our steam but I'm sure it'll be back *when* we get out call!

Again, I'm sure that there are great purposes in the delay. We leave tomorrow to go to Riverton to stay with Jaxon, Jancy, Broox and Dixon so that Lana and Aaron can know they'll be taken care of while they're with Rix during his surgery. So, we're just praying and praying with faith and confidence that Rix will do well and that the Drs will do a great job.

We so enjoyed Thanksgiving with most of you. Larry and family missed a wonderful time! Thanks again to Laura, Greg and all the family for welcoming us to their wonderful home again. They are *so great* to be such gracious hosts. We love it! And we love you!

We're going to depart from the tradition of going to Wyoming for Christmas! Yup, we're going to go to Arizona and enjoy the Coons and Burnetts for the holiday. We're looking forward to it a lot! We'll still plan to visit the rest of you sometime during the holidays—maybe early or late, but we'll be there!

We're *so* excited to see Jeff again. We love him so much and are so happy that we'll soon be able to give him hugs and loves and tell him how much we missed him and prayed for him. We'll miss them living in our basement but it's probably for the best.

Isn't Christmas a wonderful time of the year? I love it so much. I love to take this time to show love and appreciation for each of you. But, you know what? I'm way out of touch with what you might like for a gift and we probably couldn't afford it anyhow. So, we're making an effort to say to each of you "We love you and we want to celebrate Heavenly Father giving us the greatest gift of all by giving you a token present. Just know--whatever we give will never express the full extent of our love."

As parents, we feel so very blessed. We know that Heavenly Father blesses our family. We also want you to know that we are here—available for you—ready to help in any way we can.

Merry Christmas

Happy
Birthday:

Mom	Dec. 7
Melanie	Dec. 7
Jenny	Dec. 14



(Left) Aubrey's eyes are almost as big as her drumstick... but not quite.

(Above) The Thanksgiving FEAST!!!



The Dye Family:

Dear Family,

It's me, Anthony! How is everyone? We loved having you all over for Thanksgiving. That was awesome! Our family is in tip top shape and are all back to our busy school lives until Christmas vacation.

Laura is doing well except for the occasional sick day(s) of the week. She is still working at Steiner's but needs Lisa to drive her because she wrecked our mini van...scratch that. Grandma let us borrow her car so we are okay on the transportation situation. Do you want to hear the story? Okay, well, we (Ondy, Mom and I) were on our way to the face doctor in Provo. I was sitting in the back and had unbuckled for like ten seconds so that I could slouch a little more. I got into my laying down position and was about to rebuckle when my mom screamed and we ran into a car. I was bounced around but fortunately our car is padded on the backs of the seats as well as the front because I hit Ondy's and Mom's seats a couple of times. I was less injured than they were. They both had seatbelt welts. So after I got out of the car (Mom's and Ondy's doors wouldn't open) and flirted with the teenage girl that we ran into, Ondy and I left to walk to the face doctor. I came to find out that the car my mom had hit screeched forward and hit another car...which skidded forward and hit another car. Four cars banged up in one hit. Go mom!

Greg is, as usual, working, playing with puzzles, coins, and other various things that are uncommon (but interesting). He has helped my friends/cousins and I with rides to and from ski resorts. He has also helped me plan the party I'm having at my cabin which will be pretty fun.

Jeremy...well... He's in Brazil.

Ondy, is pretty cool. She has been practicing her instruments more and she sounds pretty darn good. She has ambitions to become a wicked awesome boarder, but hasn't acted on them. Oh yeah. She has a really big crush on my best friend Connor. Sometimes I wonder why he comes over to our house...j/k.

Isabella...well...She's foreign.

My life is pretty good. I do nothing besides drum and snowboard (beside school and jobs) which is pretty fun. I am in 9 musical groups so I play pretty much everything. I'm the percussion section leader which is pretty fun. I have a pass to Canyons ski resort. It is so much fun shredding the slopes and digging in the powder.

We (Ondy, Mom, Isabella, and I) went to California. My mom was a Chaperone and Isabella went just to tour the U.S. Our drum line got first in the competition and our Band got second. (Ondy and I are both in the drumline.) Our drumline took first in state in our division. (there are three divisions separated by size. Kind of like wrestling). It felt pretty cool winning all of our competitions. California was awesome. We got to play for some elementary schools and a football game. We went to the beach where Ondylyn almost died. (but she was saved by a lurp.)

Okay, well that is pretty much the story of our family's life. We hope you all enjoy your Christmas season. Take it easy.

Merry
Christmas

Hi from the Arizona Burnetts,

We are all doing well and keeping busy. Larry is still enjoying his job with Premier and doing a fair amount of traveling. His wedding video business is going well. He recently was moved from the teacher's quorum to the priest's quorum. He was a little apprehensive about this change because he really enjoyed working with these boys and the leaders; however, this new challenge of working with the priests seems to be a good change as he works with these guys helping them to see how close they are to earning their Duty to God award. It doesn't seem to matter which age group of young men Larry works with. He enjoys it regardless and relates so well to all. I (Jill) still enjoy my job at the school (most of the time). I am still working in Young Women with the Laurels. It seems to me there is never enough time to do everything I need and want to do. But that's just life. Tiffany really enjoys her job at Wells Fargo (really it's the people she works with). She has formed some good friendships. She is attending one of the university single's wards. And is still pondering what she wants to do with her degree. Heather is finishing her third semester of college. She enjoys her job at the elementary school and still nanny's every Monday afternoon. Katelyn keeps herself very busy with Student Council involvement. They recently had a quilt fest where more than 100 lap quilts were completed for humanitarian needs. Saturday, December 2 they sponsored breakfast with Santa; approximately 60 families in need were invited. The children eat breakfast and visit with Santa, while their parents visit different rooms where they can select clothing, toys, hygiene and other items for Christmas. The students spend many hours of preparation as they collect donations and other items needed to make this service project a success. She also enjoys her job as a Nanny.

We are planning a trip to San Diego between Christmas and the New Year. We will attend the marriage of a nephew/cousin on Jill's side of the family. Jill's brother, Joel, has his son Daniel getting married. And then in January (the 12th) will be attending the marriage of Jill's brother, Ken's daughter Mandy in Salt Lake. Larry really wanted a Utah ski trip so this seems to be a good opportunity.

We love you and hope you all have a very nice Holiday Season!

