

## Merry Christmas to All!

### Highlights of 2005 from the Peterson Family in Arizona!

Each year it seems that Christmas comes faster than the year before. Again the Christmas season helps us remember the happiness and joy that we have in our lives because of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He willingly came to earth, lived a perfect life and then gave his life for all of us. The gospel of Jesus Christ brings with it the true happiness that we all desire. Our family is especially thankful for Him and His gospel and hope that all of you will feel the love of the Savior in your lives this Christmas season and throughout this coming year.

Many of you are probably in the email loop (and if you're not, let Alicia know, she'll put you in) that Alicia sends out periodically. Much of this will probably not be new, but more of a glance at the high points of 2005. Enjoy!



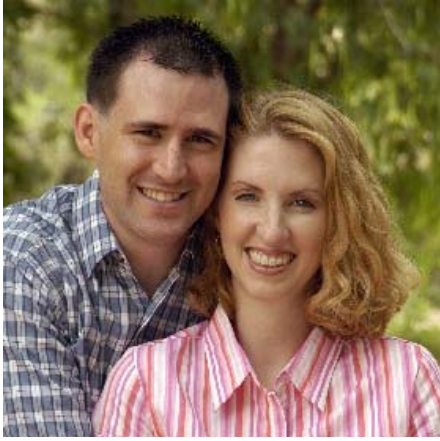
**JACOB**—This boy has grown up so much this year—from crawling to walking, silence to talking. He started 2005 off being sick almost all the time with coughs, ear infections, etc. Finally in March he got tubes in his ears and has been a new baby since. He's so good at taking naps and going to bed. He is the climber of the family. He climbs onto the back of the couches, the kitchen table, the kitchen counters, etc. He's only fallen off a few times, though. :) He is starting to say more words, mostly animal sounds, but his cutest words are yes and no. He says them in such a way that makes your heart melt. He is in nursery now at church, which is very exciting for Mommy and Daddy. He's doing well in there and hopefully will continue. He brings smiles and laughter to our family everyday and we're so thankful to have our Jakey!



**TRENT**—What a crack up this boys is. He usually makes us smile with something he says everyday. His preschool teacher is always telling us stories about Trent's conversations. Today at dinner, we had chicken soup. We were all about to eat and he says, "This soup is so stinkin' hot!" Mommy almost spit her soup out with laughter. Trent got potty trained this year. He did so well and continues to do well. He only wears diapers at night. He has been dealing with pain in his right foot for the majority of the year. We've seen doctors, done x-rays, etc., but the thing that seems to be solving it is treatment from a chiropractor. Alicia is not usually convinced that the chiropractor has the answer to everything, but in this case, it has been the one thing that has stopped the tears because of Trent's foot. Along with David and Dean, Trent has learned every scripture of the month this year. Trent is our giving boy—always making sure everyone has one of whatever we are doing.



**DAVID & DEAN**—Because they do all the same things it is hard to separate these guys. They finished up their preschool and started kindergarten this year. They do very well in all areas and really do enjoy it. They've made new friends and learned new things. They even have a "crush" on the same girl in their class. They're especially good at math. They both had their first cavity in the same tooth. They started karate this year and are currently learning their first kata to do at their first ku test. They started piano and are doing surprisingly well for 6 year olds. David shared his testimony in church for the first time. Dean started having night terrors. David loves doing crafts. They can read short sentences and words, but long for the day when they can read easily. They truly are the biggest helpers around the house.



ALICIA – Once again a year filled with projects: typing grandpa’s life story, making a bench out of a head/foot board, painting the kitchen and bathroom (again), 2 different musical presentations at church, etc. She had fun in the summer with her boys going around getting all the free deals that were offered. Alicia is also periodically taking karate with the boys. She also is happy to say that the “10 squares” program is still living. This discipline/chore program has been great for keeping the boys in line this year and for helping her focus on the positive. Work has been amazingly successful this year too-what a blessing. She’s grown to really love being the choir director at church as well, but will cry on Christmas day knowing that someone else will be leading the choir because she’ll be in Utah. She’s working on making her weaknesses become

strengths and constantly prays for the guidance to be the best mommy, wife, daughter, friend, teacher, etc. that she can be.

MATT – He started off this year being worried and stressed about work, but it has made a turn around and he feels much better now. He comfortably works in the new system and is constantly an asset to them there. He’s also grown comfortable in his calling as mission leader and helps us all to be better missionaries. In searching for an agent/publisher for his book, a new acquaintance helped him with some “advice”. He took it and now has several agents looking at his book in more depth. He’s waiting now to hear what they have to say. David and Dean continue to pray that Daddy will get a publisher/agent. His second book has been put off by other projects, but hopefully next year he’ll get more time for that. He’s become a master at video editing and enjoys teaching karate. He also had a part in the same musical production Alicia was in. This makes the first time they’ve been in a production together.



SAMSON & WOBACHA – Samson, our African tortoise is a joy to us still. We never thought we’d love him this much. He eats right out of our hands. He comes to the back door almost everyday for a snack at lunch time (he gets our apple cores, etc.). He did have a few “run-ins” with Wobacha, our desert tortoise.

Wobacha was getting in his face, chasing him around the yard, nipping at his heels. (Keep in mind that Wobacha is about 1/4 the size of Samson). Finally Samson had had enough and rammed him a couple times-tipping over Wobacha. Finally Wobacha left Samson alone. It was fun to see them napping together on our back porch one day. Wobacha is in hibernation now and Samson has become a lot less active, but he still likes his snack.

Well, that’s our family in a nutshell (a big nutshell). Don’t forget to check us out in pictures and movies on our website: [www.mattsfamily.com](http://www.mattsfamily.com) We love and appreciate you all and hope that this year has been as good to you as it has been to us. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year too!

Matt, Alicia, David, Dean, Trent, Jacob (Samson and Wobacha) Peterson

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