

It's Christmastime! Time to celebrate the birth of our Savior and to remember all that is good in our lives. As we look at our past year, although it has been trying at times we have been blessed so abundantly that we can't help but sing praises to our Lord and King. Ever wonder why Christmas carols make us feel so good? I believe it is because the majority of them are about Jesus Christ. When we remember Him in our songs, we are thinking of Him so much more than normal. I sometimes wish we could have Christmas songs all year long!

Here is a little run-down on our family (from Mommy's point of view), and how each of us has grown this year:



Jared is such an amazing joy to us. Just one look at him and it makes everyone who sees him smile. He has grown and developed so much this year. He turned one year on Nov. 15. Can you believe how time flies? I am happy to say that my goals of him sitting and rolling by the end of the year have been at least partially met. He has rolled from his belly to his back several times and he can sit unassisted for 2-3 mins. at a time now.

He loves to play games, putting his head from side to side or shaking his head to mimic whoever might be playing with him. If you really get him going he will belly laugh, which is so fun to hear—nothing better. Health wise he is doing well. He's had 4 different surgeries this year and will probably have 1 or 2 next year, but all in all he is well. Jared had 109 doctor's appointments this year, not including all the in home therapy sessions. He loves music and will smiles when you sing to him.



Jacob is 3 ½ and tells me he loves me “so much” every single day about 10 times. He's very loving most of the time. He loves to tackle his brothers and he will sword fight with the best of them. He loves playing outside and will often spend hours outside all by himself making some concoction with sand or dirt or rocks or something. He is learning how to write his name in preschool and he loves to sing. He makes up new songs all the time. I think his favorite Christmas carol is Angels We

Have Heard on High—because of the “Gloria” part in the chorus.

Trent is 5 ½ and is missing his 2 front teeth this Christmas (his bottom two). He is doing very well in his first year of school—kindergarten. He comes home excited to show me all his papers every day. Trent is a very hard worker and is usually the first to get his chores done every morning. He is the boy who spends the most time with Jared. All Trent has to do is look at Jared and he instantly smiles. Trent learned to swim this summer. One day he just decided not to wear the vest and he jumped in and did it. Every now and then I'll here Trent singing to himself while he does his chores.



Dean is 8 and got baptized last month. He loves to read and often chooses to read The Book of Mormon for his reading assignment after school. He's already read half of the book. He's very dedicated. He is our perfectionist and loves to do well in his school work. He was student of the month last month in his class. He and David recently had an abscess on the exact same tooth in the exact same spot. Just once again confirming that they truly are TWINS! Dean loves to sing

and earlier this year wanted to sing “Where Are You Christmas” for his class. (Dean is on the left in the picture.



David is also 8 and also got baptized last month. David is much more laid back than Dean. He does well in school, but isn't so concerned about being perfect. David's reading is definitely improving as well as his spelling. Having them in different classes this year seems to be working out just fine. They are still the best of friends. David will often come up to me and just start rubbing my back or lightly scratching it. When I recently hurt my back, he was the first to ask in the morning, “How's your back doing, Mom?” As David practices his piano he usually sings along with it. This last month he has been “Once there was a Snowman”.

I am still enjoying my twenties (at least for 2 more months), although there are times that I feel fifty. A week ago I turned to get off my bed and completely wrenched my back. This is really the first time I've done this since my pelvis separation last year and I was really worried that I'd done something wrong. Thank goodness, I am feeling much better now. I have had many miracles this year—walking again, still having all 5 fingers on a hand that should have been destroyed by the garbage disposal, and having my keys turned in to a store after leaving them on the back of the car. I've only done one decorating project— the twins bedroom. Much of my time has been spent in doctor's offices. I'm also part of a co-op preschool so I get to teach preschool every 8 weeks or so. My calling in church now is 2nd Counselor in Primary (young children) and I work with the cub scouts a lot too. I've also been helping Matt to market his book. Oh, and I started a little business www.mycornbags.com selling corn heat bags, focusing on the therapy uses of them. I got to sing Silent Night this year on the church Christmas CD that we do every year.



Matt has also had a very eventful year. His online business has dwindled down a bit, but he still works it now and then. His main focus for the last many months has been to market his book. Now we know why people pay other people to market their books. It is a full time job and then some. It is starting to pay off, though. He is getting reviews from all different people and they all love it. You can go to <http://pworlds.blogspot.com/> to see all the reviews and things that have been going on. His book will officially be out on January 1st but we are trying to direct all the purchases to happen at the bookstores the week of the 13th. I know this is a plug, but what can I say, I'm a proud wife!! Oh, and Matt's favorite Christmas song is Grandma Got Ran Over By a Reindeer (hee, hee).

We hope that your Christmas is filled with joy and music! We love you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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