

Merry Christmas to all!!
December 2012

To our dear loved ones,

The last two years (yes, it's been 2 years since our last letter) have been filled with many adventures, emotions and excitement. We are eternally grateful for our Savior, Jesus Christ, who knows all things, has felt all things and has endured all things. As we celebrate his birth here on earth we reflect on his life and ministry and try just a little harder to be more like him. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and another year filled with Life and Love!!

Here's a brief description on life in the Peterson family. Enjoy!

Matt: Promoted to Director of IT at the Glendale Elementary School District. He finds that he sometimes misses the simplicity of just "programming" (if you can call that simple). At church he is the Scoutmaster. His time is filled with camping, shooting, merit badges and calendar planning. He keeps his phone close and his Ipad closer. His third book is on the back burner until there are 30 hours in a day instead of 24. If anyone knows of a publisher looking for a new series---send them our way! He went skydiving for the first time and lived!!

Favorite thing of the last two years: Loving a new child

Alicia: Last year started helping to manage 1 home, then 6 homes, then 14 homes and now it's down to 10 homes. It can be busy at times, but she enjoys learning new things and using her brain in new ways. At church—still stake primary president—going on 3½ years, the longest calling she's ever had. 5 boys, well 6 if you count Matt, keep her very busy. Sometimes she can see the top of her desk, but usually just for a small moment. Enjoyed hot air ballooning with Matt for their 15 year anniversary.

Favorite thing of the last two years: Caring for and loving a baby girl for 3 months.

David (13): He really enjoys school, several times this year he's said, "School is awesome." He was the 1st counselor in the Deacon's Quorum at church and now is the secretary. He has done his Eagle project for scouts and just has to finish the paperwork and finish his last merit badge and then he'll be done with that rank. He did soccer last year and although he likes it he decided all the running wasn't for him. He and Dean bought their own fencing gear and are planning to learn that sport now. He was in the stake youth choir and school choir. He certainly knows where to go to be by the girls. He is a great babysitter.

Favorite thing of the last two years: Loving a foster baby

Dean (13): Dean is a devourer of books. We really are amazed at how quickly he goes through them. He was the secretary in the Deacon's Quorum at church and now he is the president. He is at the exact same place in scouts as David. He also played soccer, but loved the running and wants to play again in the spring. He also is in the choirs and is a fabulous babysitter as well. D&D got rats this year as pets. Yes, rats.

Favorite thing of the last two years: Giving love to a foster baby

Trent (10): Just finished playing soccer and did our family proud by making the first Peterson family goal! Trent has taken up the trumpet for school band and he really does well at it. Trent is a born leader and typically has a group of friends following him around. He is a good friend. He is a Webelos scout and plans to get the "20" patch as well as the Arrow of Light award. He also has become a devourer of books. He also enjoys his own company and can often be found in the backyard, by himself, playing a role playing game, alone.

Favorite thing of the last two years: Loving and cuddling a cute baby girl

Jacob (8): Got baptized this year. He is full of life and energy, but still manages to melt moms heart with a hug and an, "I love you, mom." Jacob is very creative and an "outside the box" thinker. He recently joined all his brothers in PI, the gifted program at school and loves it. Jacob is a very good friend to Jared. They will play for hours together. Jacob did t-ball last year and soccer this year.

Favorite thing of the last two years: Having a cute baby sister

Jared (6): Continues to melt everyone's heart that he encounters. He will grab anyone's hand and start talking to them and asking questions and become their friend instantly. He loves kindergarten at his brothers' school. He is writing and continually impresses me with his reading. His heart doctor has cleared him for another year and told us recently that his heart is supposed to be enlarging because of the hole between the ventricles, but it's not. Truly a miracle child! He played t-ball last year and kickball this year and completely loved it.
Favorite thing of the last two years: Playing with a baby sister

Foster daughter: Matt and Alicia got licensed for foster care in July after about 50 hours of training. Yes, we are trying to get a little girl (or two) in our home. After a few weeks of being licensed we got a beautiful little 4 day old girl to join our family. She had a full head of thick black hair and beautiful black eyes. She became part of our family and we became very attached to her. Just a week ago we gave her back to her birth mother. We miss her terribly, but we know that our Heavenly Father's children all deserve chances. We are extremely grateful to have been her chance at a very good start at life and a part of her mom's chance to change. We hope to get another dear one into our home very soon.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from the Petersons!

Matt, Alicia, David, Dean, Trent, Jacob, and Jared

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