

Summers' Scrapbook

1997

With Christmas less than a month away, it is time once again to document the experiences we have had over the past year. So many things have changed this year for our family that it does not seem possible. Each year we think that we have not accomplished anything, but this Christmas newsletter helps to remind us of all that we have done and the memories we have to cherish. So, as in years past, we sat down by the Christmas tree as a family to share our memories with each other. In a family of this size, that is not an easy task. We are beginning to believe that it takes less planning to launch a rocket to Mars than it does to schedule a family of seven together at any given moment of time. But we were successful and this newsletter is the result. So sit back with a warm blanket, some Christmas music, and a cup of hot cider and share a few of our memories of 1997.

January

January began with Jeff beginning shoulder therapy. After his surgery in December, he was able to go back to work in mid-January. He is doing better than before the surgery, but he is still in pain. The doctor has him in a strength training routine. When Jeff got back to work, he was promoted to the Network Architecture team lead. This is a lot more responsibility, but he feels he is up to it. During January, Ashley took tests for placement for High School next year. She did very well and will be in Honors English, Geometry, and Chemistry/Physics. She is very excited and Jeff and Trina are very proud of her.

February

February was a very busy time for the family. Jeff is travelling for half of the month. He was in San Jose for planning sessions for network management. He also traveled to Palm Springs where he was the featured speaker at a national conference on network operating systems. When he was home, he and Ashley went on a daddy-daughter snow outing with the mutual. They both decided that snow is not that bad in Arizona. You leave the house in your shorts, drive for an hour, play in the snow, then drive home and sit by the pool. Ashley also began track this month. This year she is high jumping again. The coach has high hopes for her.

March

March was as hectic as February. For Jeff's birthday, the family again went to a spring training baseball game. This year the Colorado Rockies played the Chicago Cubs, both are Jeff's favorite teams. Everyone had fun. Jeff was again travelling this month. He was in Salt Lake City for a week again presenting at a conference, then he was off to Fort Lauderdale Florida for architecture meetings for Motorola. Trina was released as first counselor of the Primary. She is now going to the doctor weekly as her due date is less than a month away. She is getting anxious. Friends and neighbors held a baby shower for her. Everyone is excited waiting for the birth. Ashley had braces put on her teeth so now both her and Mallorie have them.

April

April began with discouraging news. Jeff's shoulder is not healing properly and they had found additional damage. So with Trina's due date less than three weeks away, Jeff again had surgery, this time much more extensive. Jeff and Trina were a site to behold, he in his large brace and Trina being even larger in her pregnancy. They would not have made it if it were not for Trina's mom. She came down to help Trina with the baby, but ended up babying Jeff more than Trina. April saw Ashley involved in the conference track meet. She did well in the high jump. The month ended with great news. Dakota Jeffery Summers was born April 27th. Jeff was there in the delivery room

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with Trina. His arm in a brace and he on pain medication, he offered what support he could to Trina. After the birth of five daughters, having a son was almost overwhelming for Jeff and Trina.

May

May has become known as the birthday month. With both Ashley and Mallorie having birthdays within two days, the house is one big party. This year was no exception although the party started early. Dakota was blessed on Mother's day. Trina's mother was here for the blessing. It meant so much to have her here to share in this sacred ordinance. Jeff and Trina were very grateful to her for making the effort to be here with us, it was appreciated more than she can imagine. Ashley graduated from Middle School. Next year she heads to High School. It is hard to believe that she is that old. Mallorie and Tiffany started summer vacation at the end of the month. They are looking forward to a summer of swimming and hanging out at the pool. Jeff was again a featured speaker at a conference. The conference was in Phoenix, the Executive Technology Summit. He is doing very well. Jeff was also called to be a Sunday School teacher. He is now teaching Ashley's class. He really enjoys this.

June

In June, the family made a trip to Idaho to see family. No one had seen Dakota other than Margie so it was decided if the people won't come to Dakota, Dakota will go to the people. The Idaho trip was a lot of fun. Trina kept Kodak in business by taking rolls and rolls of pictures. This marked the first time that Jeff's family had a four-generation picture. It was a special sight that brought tears to their eyes. Great-grandpa Summers beamed as he held Dakota. As it came time for the family to go back to Arizona, Mallorie talked JoAnn into sending Natalie back with them. After days of negotiations, it was settled and the family headed back plus one. Natalie had a lot of fun and the kids took her around to see all of the sights. For Tiffany's birthday, Trina took everyone to Sun Splash water park. She finally had to drag them out at 8:00. They were sun-bleached and water logged, but very happy.

July

The month began with Jeff starting a new job. With all of the exposure he has received, he had several offers. The one he selected was with Motorola Semiconductor Products Sector. He is now a project manager working on the worldwide deployment of software. This was a great opportunity and Jeff is very excited to begin this job. During the first week of July, Natalie flew back to Idaho. Mallorie is very depressed. She and Natalie are very close and by the time the plane left, they were both in tears. Jeff asked Mallorie if she wanted to go to Idaho next year like Natalie did this year. Mallorie said no, she wanted Natalie to come back down. It is too cold to spend much time in Idaho. It seems the kids have become acclimated to Arizona. Jeff would have a difficult time getting them to move from Arizona now.

August

Ashley was off to Girls Camp as August got underway. Mallorie is such a lost soul when Ashley is gone. They are becoming close friends and share a lot. While Ashley was away at camp, Trina took Mallorie and Tiffany and did their school shopping. School started for all of the kids at the end of August. Tiffany is now in second grade. Mallorie is now in Middle School in the sixth grade. Ashley is a freshman in High School. So Jeff and Trina now have children in all three schools. Back-to-school night now lasts a week rather than a night. Trina received a new calling in the church. She is now on the Homemaking committee responsible for quilting. She will do very well

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in this calling. The end of August, Trina and Dakota flew to Idaho to attend the funeral of her cousin's child. It was a sad time for the whole family as they shared in the emotions of the loss of a child.

September

Trina was still in Idaho for the first week of September. I think she was nervous leaving Jeff with the girls for that amount of time. She was not sure that when she got back that Dakota would be an only child. But Jeff and the girls managed just fine although their laundry skills do need some work. Trina's cousin Nicole came to visit in September. It was good to see her and her family. In the middle of September, Jeff took Ashley and Mallorie to the football game as BYU came to Tempe to play Arizona State. They had a lot of fun, even though Mallorie thought going to the game was an ideal time to shop rather than watch the game. Jeff's new job is working out very well. He has been there for three months and he has received a promotion. This was indeed a good opportunity for him.

October

October began with Trina's mother and her Aunt Louise visiting from Idaho. They were here for a week and Trina took them around to see the sights. Trina was very excited having her mother here. She misses her family and is always glad to see them. Jeff is again travelling. He is first in Mountain View California for meetings and then he is in Austin Texas for presentations. It seems that when Trina does laundry now, half of Jeff's clothes go in the closet and half go in a suitcase. This month ended with sad news. Jeff's grandma Olsen was having heart trouble. The family went to Needles California to visit her in the hospital. It was a frightening time. She had a pacemaker installed. Jeff and the family have held fasts and prayers on her behalf that she may recover. Jeff would be devastated at the loss of his grandmother. He loves her very much. October ended with Halloween. The kids went all out this year. Ashley stayed home to hand out candy but she decorated the house and garage as a haunted mansion. Mallorie dressed as a baby and had one of Dakota's pacifiers in her mouth. Tiffany was a vampire. She had her hair blacked. It was amazing how different she looked as a brunette. Whitney was a princess and had glitter placed in her hair. As for Dakota, he was the Cat in the Hat. Trina made all of the costumes, she did a very good job. The kids had a great Halloween and they are still eating candy they got. Jeff thinks they have just enough candy left to last until Christmas eve meaning there will be one 24-hour period that the kids will not have sugar in their systems.

November

Dakota is now fully mobile. Although he started to army crawl in October, he was crawling with ease by the first of November. Besides crawling, he is climbing stairs and standing up to things. It will not be long before he begins to walk. Trina says if they worked with him he would be walking by the end of the year. Jeff says that is the last thing they need. It is bad enough that nothing is safe at the crawling altitude, if he starts walking, the damage path increases by another foot. During November, Tiffany, Jeff, and Trina went to a baptism fireside. Tiffany will be baptized in June. It does not seem possible. Mallorie is taking band in Middle School this year. She had her first concert this month. She is playing the flute. She is doing very well. Mallorie also attended Science Camp in Prescott Arizona for a week. She and her classmates went out camping where they studied earth science. It was a great experience and she had a lot of fun. Jeff spent November 18 in downtown Phoenix. The Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team that was awarded on his birthday in

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1995 was involved in the baseball expansion draft. He and a few of his friends went down and spent the day. Jeff said he was protecting his investment in season tickets. Trina thinks he was down there just for the big party. As Thanksgiving arrived, the family spent time together counting their blessings and thanking the Lord for all that he has given to this family. Dakota got his first tooth the day before Thanksgiving and his second tooth the day after. Jeff thinks Dakota has just added to more weapons to his destructive arsenal.

December

As December begins, the house is transformed from its normal decorations to something that resembles the inside of Santa's workshop. Jeff is responsible for the Christmas tree while Ashley and Mallorie decorate the house. Trina is on her annual vision quest to see if she can break some Guinness Book of Records for sleep deprivation. Each year she promises that next year will be different and that next year she will be done making all of her Christmas gifts by July at the latest. Jeff and the kids place bets that next year will be the same as the last. Mallorie and Tiffany are involved in the Primary Activity where they did service for others. Ashley held a party for the Mia Maids at the house. Ashley is First Counselor of the Mia Maids and she is doing a great job. Jeff is busy at work where one of his projects is nearing the implementation phase. It will not be long before he will be travelling internationally to oversee the installation of the software. He is both excited and nervous for this opportunity. The house is filled with Christmas music, the weather is definitely winter-like. Jeff even wore long pants for two days straight so it must be cold.

As you can see, our family has been very busy. I have often wondered why we go through so many pairs of shoes, but after doing the newsletter each year, I can see that we have traveled a lot of miles over the course of the past year. We are grateful to each and every one of those people who have touched our lives and helped us to make these memories. Our lives are definitely blessed by the company that we keep. There is much to learn while we are on this Earth, and we as a family are doing our best to experience all of it. It is wonderful to take a moment to reflect on all that we have seen and done. But with that, we are also taking a moment to look ahead to what is on the horizon. Our journey is always forward as we stride to create new memories each day we are here. We give thanks to the Lord for all that he has given us and we praise Him always. We are excited at what the future holds and we invite you to join us as we begin to build memories over the course of the next year and beyond. Please write and share with us all that have happened in your lives as well.

