

Summers Scrapbook 2003

The weather has turned cold (well cold for Arizona which means that the high temperature reaches 60 degrees). The kids have pulled out their sweatshirts and dusted off their hats and mittens. The summer grass has now gone dormant and winter grass is in full bloom. From the kitchen comes the aroma of cookies baking while Trina is busy putting lights on the Christmas tree. It is a time of year for reflection as we look back over the year to think of all our family has experienced in the last twelve months. This has become an annual event where we sit down as a family and bring out our calendars and journals and talk about what we experienced during the year. This activity is filled with laughter and a few tears as we think back over the events that have helped to shape our lives. I invite you to pour a cup of hot chocolate, snuggle beneath a blanket and read along as we revisit 2003.

January

At the stroke of midnight, the year 2003 was ushered in and the family was all together to witness the dawning of a new year. This has become a family tradition where all of the family is together for new years. The day afterwards is always special around the house. It is Whitney's birthday. She turned nine this year and celebrated with a family party. After the party, Ashley was off to Provo to begin winter semester. She has changed her major and is now in elementary education and is really enjoying it. Jeff is back traveling again. With his job with Wells Fargo, he is managing a group responsible for Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment. He flies to San Francisco this month to meet with upper management on the future of this technology with the bank.

February

During February it is decided that Dog Dot Com is now old enough to begin school Trina and the kids have enrolled Dottie in puppy school and they all take turns training her.

They all seem to enjoy themselves although Dakota and Dottie still like to wrestle to see who the top dog is in the family. In the later half of February Tiffany begins another season of track for Aprende Middle School. She is again running the mile and she is also long jumping. Tiffany is starting her growing spurt and is looking more and more like Trina every day. This fact becomes obvious every time Jeff and Trina try to buy her clothes. Pants seem to be the worst. If they are long enough they drown poor Tiffany and if they fit around the waist then the pant legs reach her knees. Fortunately Arizona is warm enough that Tiffany either wears Capri pants or shorts.

March

As spring approaches that means two things to the family, birthdays and baseball (not necessarily in that order). For his birthday, Jeff wants nothing more than to go to the ballpark. Dakota is now getting old enough to follow in his father's footsteps and he too wants to hang out at the ball game. Although Jeff is swamped at work, he seems to find time to catch at least one game every week during Spring Training. Jeff is still following the Diamondbacks very closely and spends the spring assessing the team's chances for the coming year. Besides baseball, Jeff is also traveling again this month. This time he is flying to Minneapolis Minnesota to meet with product representatives. Jeff has a new project beginning this month that will develop the next generation of bill payment services for all of Wells Fargo. With this new project Jeff also received a new title. He is now an AVP for Wells Fargo Services Company.

April

April saw Jeff and Trina taking a vacation to Orlando and Walt Disney World. They left the week before Easter and spent the holiday in the parks. While they were gone, Trina's mother stayed with the children in Arizona. The kids had a great time with grandma

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getting her involved in Easter egg hunts and coloring eggs. Trina was not left out though. The Easter Bunny visited her in Florida hiding eggs around their suite at the Swan. When Jeff and Trina returned home, it was time for school to be out at BYU. Trina and Margie drove to Utah then to Idaho where Trina and Ashley visited family before driving home. They arrived home on April 27 just in time for Dakota's birthday. He is now six years old and if his mother missed his birthday there was going to be trouble.

May

May is typically a very busy month for the family and this year was especially so. Ashley's birthday was the 15th and she turned 20 years old. For her birthday she went through the Mesa temple taking out her endowments. It was a very special time not only for her but also for Jeff and Trina. Two days later it was Mallorie's birthday where she turned 17. She has become a very beautiful young lady. As school ended, there were two major events in the household. Dakota graduated from kindergarten. He wore a cap and gown that he had made in class and walked down the aisle. Jeff and Trina were very proud to share this moment with him. Later that week Mallorie was called into the Stake President's office along with Jeff and Trina. She was called to be the seminary president for the Tempe South Stake for Corona del Sol high school. She is very honored that the Lord would call her to serve her classmates. During her setting apart the Spirit was very strong as everyone could sense the Savior's presence. It was an emotional experience none of them will forget.

June

As June arrived the family was scrambling around with last minute preparations. Ashley and Eli had chosen June 18 as their wedding day. The beginning of the month was spent with last minute preparations, dress fittings and tux sizing. Jeff caused a minor uproar when he had to travel out of town to San

Francisco the week before the wedding without getting his tux fitted. Things all worked out as Ashley and Eli were married in the Mesa Temple in June. Everything went perfectly up to the point where Jeff forgot his socks and made Ashley wear the lucky orange Diamondbacks hat at the reception. Ashley took everything in stride including when Jeff changed the daddy/daughter dance music to Take Me Out to the Ballgame. The strangest thing happened though, when Jeff put the lucky hat on Ashley's head, the Diamondbacks came back and won the game. They then went on a franchise best 12 game winning streak which oddly enough is the same amount of time that Ashley and Eli were on their honeymoon. Jeff feels somewhat responsible for this and claims the mojo of the hat is strong and they are only to use the hat for good and never evil. June ended with Tiffany's birthday. She is now a teenager as she turned thirteen.

July

When July began Trina, Mallorie and Tiffany were off to girl's camp. This year the weather cooperated to allow them to go to Camp Lomia. This is the last year of camp for Mallorie and she has put a lot of work into making this a special camp for those who are going with her. This is Tiffany's second year of girl's camp but it is the first year that she has been to Lomia. Last year camp was at the stake center due to the Arizona wild fires. All three of them had a great time at camp. At home, Jeff was responsible for Whitney and Dakota. Trina knew that if she left Jeff in charge no good was going to come from that. As a backup plan she had Ashley and Eli watch Jeff. Fortunately nothing went too far awry and there were no serious injuries while Trina was gone. Trina and Mallorie are working many hours at Mountainside Fitness. Trina is working in the child care while Mallorie is splitting time between child care and teaching rock climbing. They both seem

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to enjoy working together. For Independence Day, the family spent time in the pool keeping cool in the hot Arizona summer. That night the kids swam while watching fireworks all around them from several communities.

August

It seems as though school starts earlier and earlier each year. This year the kids started school the middle of August. Mallorie will be a senior at Corona del Sol; Tiffany will be in eighth grade at Aprende Middle School Whitney will be in the fourth grade and Dakota will begin the first grade at Kyrene de las Brisas. The week before school began the kids talked Jeff and Trina into going to Idaho on vacation to escape the stifling heat of Phoenix. The family packed the car and drove to Idaho Falls where they visited with family. Ashley and Eli house sat for them while they were gone. It was wonderful seeing everyone and recharged everyone to begin what would become a busy fall. A few days after the family returned, it was time for Ashley and Eli to go back to school in Provo. They packed up their belongings and moved to Utah where both would be attending school for the fall semester. The month ended on a very sad note. Jeff's grandfather Summers passed away. As August came to a close, the family was once again in the car traveling to Idaho. I

September

September began with the family being in Idaho. Jeff has now lost both of his grandfathers. He really struggled with this loss taking it very hard. He was asked to give the life sketch at the funeral. He tried as hard as he may to do justice to this great man's life. When Jeff arrived home from Idaho he was called into work and offered an expanded role within Wells Fargo. His group had been 15 developers and was now being expanded to 48. Besides Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment, he also has responsibility for several other treasury management products. This is a lot of responsibility and Jeff is fairly nervous

about this assignment. This also means he will be doing more traveling between Minnesota and California. This begins immediately with 2 trips to Minneapolis in three weeks. As if the family does not have enough activities, Dakota began to play soccer this season. Jeff was volunteered to coach so each week they have practice and games. The team is the Red Lightning and is made up of beginning players most of which are ages 5 and 6. Jeff is not quite sure he knows what he got himself into.

October

During October the kids were out for fall break for a week. During this break Dakota was scheduled for surgery to take out his tonsils. He has been sick nearly every month for the past year all attributed to his tonsils. Jeff and Trina are very worried and nervous for Dakota but it doesn't seem to bother him. Trina took Dakota to the surgical center before surgery so he could see what it was like. Dakota was extremely excited at the thought of riding in a wheel chair and getting to eat ice cream. He was an amazing kid. The day of surgery there was not a tear shed either before or after surgery. The doctor suggested that Jeff and Trina keep him down for a week. They were lucky to keep him quiet for a day before he was up and playing as if nothing happened. Jeff's parents came down for Halloween where VelDean helped Trina make costumes for the kids. Jeff was traveling again. This time he was in Orlando. He claims he was at a meeting but every time Trina called him he was at Walt Disney World. Jeff arrived home on Halloween night just in time to help the kids eat their Halloween candy.

November

November began with Dakota finishing fall soccer season. The team struggled as most of the kids had never played soccer before. Regardless, the players all had a lot of fun, especially Dakota. Even before the season ended he wanted to know when the next one began. Jeff signed him up for spring ball

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which begins in January. Soccer became a family affair with Trina acting as team parent and Tiffany and Whitney being cheerleaders. Besides soccer, the family was also busy getting ready for Thanksgiving. The week before was the annual Turkey Trot at the elementary school. Jeff and Trina both competed along with Dakota and Whitney. Jeff was in pretty good shape running with Dakota; he was able to keep up. When Whitney's race began, neither Trina nor Jeff could keep up with her. It is clear that Whitney has her father's speed and her mother's endurance. If this was any indication, Jeff and Trina have another budding track star coming along. Thanksgiving this year was different with Ashley being gone. It was even stranger in the fact that Trina had to work that day and Jeff did some of the cooking. No one seemed to know what to expect to see dad in the kitchen. The kids seem to think it was safer just to sneak through and hide downstairs and watch the parades until the coast was clear.

December

December brought a whirlwind of activity around the house. Trina and Mallorie are working many hours at the gym as they have both become important resources there. Jeff has several deadlines as he has three project teams working towards milestones due before year end. The result has been chaotic around the house as everyone's schedule seems a little different. The family typically puts the Christmas tree up the first week of December but this year the tradition is a little different. Ashley now has the family Christmas tree as she took it with her in August. Jeff and Trina were so busy that they forgot this fact until Jeff went to the garage to retrieve the box and realized it was not there. For the first time in more than 20 years the family has a real Christmas tree. Trina and the kids picked it out and brought it home. All of the children have commented how different it is. Whitney

is frustrated that she cannot bend the branches to hang her ornaments and Mallorie cannot get over how this tree smells. Trina is excited at the prospect of the house smelling like Christmas. The year ends with Mallorie putting applications in for college next year. She would like to attend a church school and we are all praying for her to be accepted.

As our journey through the year comes to a close, it is amazing to think of all we have done during the last twelve months. Each of us is grateful for all that we have experienced. Our lives have been filled with happiness each time we have shared a moment with a friend or loved one. We have held each other in sorrow and we have embraced each other in joy. We have come to appreciate each moment of our earthly lives and feel gratitude to our Father in Heaven for all the blessings he has bestowed upon our family. We are looking forward to 2004 and all that it has to offer. Although there is much sorrow in this world, we choose to dwell on the positive. We can already anticipate that our lives will be filled with many activities and changes next year and we are anxious for this next leg of our journey to begin. We welcome you to join us on this trek to watch the future unfold before our eyes. All that is required is friendship and a bit of imagination. We pray that your dreams and aspirations will be achieved and that we will be there to share in your happiness.

*Jeff, Trina, Mallorie, Tiffany,
Whitney, & Dakota*