

# Summers Scrapbook

## 2014

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As a child it seemed as though Christmas would never come. The time from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve felt more like a year than a month apart. As I've gotten older it feels as though time has gotten shorter and shorter. Here we are with less than a month left of 2014 and I feel as though I was writing this newsletter for 2010 last week. So, as I stop to take a breath and put pen to paper I invite you to grab a mug of hot chocolate and find your favorite chair near the fireplace and walk with me as we recount the activities and memories of the last year.

### January

The year started with Whitney being home from BYU-Idaho for the holiday break. She is now in her Sophomore year and is loving her time in Idaho. Dakota is again playing soccer for Corona del Sol playing on the varsity squad. While the team is struggling a bit, he is still enjoying playing. Jeff was again traveling this month. This time Wells Fargo sent him to Newport Beach California where he was the keynote speaker at their Solutions Architecture conference. While he doesn't get too excited for this kind of thing even he was impressed with the venue and the perks that went along with it. He especially loved that the conference was just across the street from the beach so he could sneak away and watch the surfing.

### February

February saw the Gilbert Arizona Temple be completed and the public open house started. Trina and Jeff both went a couple of times taking various friends and family to see this beautiful building. It was incredible and the most exciting part was that this would be the temple district they would be in. This month was also the Diamondbacks FanFest at Chase Field. Jeff was still trying to talk Trina into going to Australia to watch the Diamondbacks open the season against the Los Angeles Dodgers. After all, those were home games for the Diamondbacks so Jeff felt obligated that they should be there. Trina had to draw the line and tell him that a home game had to be in the same continent as the team resides therefore this didn't count. As part of the Gilbert Temple dedication, Dakota was part of the youth entertainment. He had an amazing experience and even a little rain did not dampen their spirit or enthusiasm. The month ended with Jeff attending Opening Day for the new Cubs Spring Training stadium in Mesa. He had a blast and even though he is now a Diamondbacks fan the Cubs will always have a soft spot in his heart.

### March

Lily celebrated her fourth birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with an ice skating birthday party. She invited several of her friends and had a blast out on the ice. It was a little odd that after skating they went outside where temperatures were in the 70's or 80's. Dakota is enrolled in EVIT studying Fire Sciences. He has a dream to be a fireman. This month they had a controlled burn demonstration to show parents and interested citizens what they had learned. It was fascinating but Trina was pretty nervous watching her son that close to fire. Jeff spent his birthday the same way he does every year, attending a Spring Training game. He and Trina had a great time at the ballpark where some of the fans surprised him with boxes of donuts. As March ended Jeff was again presenting this time to a CIO conference. The good part about this one was that it was at least in Arizona so he didn't have to miss any baseball games.

### April

As the calendar turned to April Jeff was back at Chase Field in his traditional seats rooting for the Diamondbacks. Trina has gotten to the point where she suggested Jeff has his mail forwarded to the

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stadium since he is always there. Syrell celebrated her first birthday. She is growing up so fast. The backyard transformation continued this month with the replacement of the pool fence. This one is a hammered bronze version that fits well with the new cool decking and pool remodel. Dakota is again triple jumping for Corona del Sol High School and Tiffany is his coach. They both love spending time together. When Easter came around there was the traditional egg hunt which is even more fun with Lily and Syrell joining in.

### May

May began with Dakota attending prom. He didn't intend to go but one of his teachers talked him into asking a senior who didn't have a date. He has such a good heart and obliged. For Mother's Day there was once again a visit from the Mother's Day Frog, an invention of Jeff's where the frog hides mom's gifts along with plastic frogs for her to find. It has become a family tradition and a holiday conversation piece. James wanted to give Mallorie a photo of the Gilbert Temple for her birthday and asked Jeff to take it. It was a very special gift and everyone loved. As school ended Dakota was on his way to California as part of the priesthood trip. He especially loved the Newport Beach Temple and the beach.

### June

June was another month filled with celebration. It started with Father's Day where all the kids came over to see their dad. Jeff loved the attention and the Diamondbacks gear. His kids know him too well. Just a few days later was Jeff and Trina's anniversary and they celebrated like they normally do by going to Chase Field to watch a ball game. Jeff did at least manage to get them on kiss cam. Finally it was Tiffany's birthday which was extra special this year as it was her golden birthday where she turns the age of the day she was born. Tiffany also received a present for every year she is old. This one about killed Jeff and Trina and they are worried for Dakota since he will be 27 for his golden birthday.

### July

July started with a death that was especially sad for Jeff. The dishwasher finally went to the big appliance store in the sky. This meant Jeff was tasked with doing dishes until a replacement could be found. Jeff believes that Trina did that on purpose knowing that Jeff wouldn't do dishes for very long by hand and sure enough within a week a new dishwasher was purchased and installed. The drawback of course is that Jeff always picks the most technology laden model that exists. Dakota is once again working as a life guard along with Tiffany at the West Chandler Aquatic Center. They both have a lot of fun at their jobs but with temperatures near 116 degrees it's not as fun as it sounds.

### August

August again means back to school. Ashley continues teaching second grade in the Kyrene School District. Dakota started his senior year at Corona del Sol. It's hard to believe that Dakota is in his last year in high school. It seemed like just yesterday Jeff and Trina were taking flowers to the kindergarten teacher with a not apologizing in advance for her losing her sanity as a result of teaching Dakota. Now he has a final set of teachers to make crazy before he graduates. Jeff is also heavily involved in baseball season still writing for the Arizona Diamondbacks. He really enjoys that and based on the feedback they get at the stadium the fans seem to enjoy his humorous columns too. Trina has to keep reminding people that Jeff is not nearly as funny as he thinks he is. The month ended with Diamondbacks Alumni game as retired players come back to play an exhibition.



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### September

As the month started, Whitney boarded an airplay headed for Idaho. She is studying English Education at BYU-Idaho. This is her Junior year and she is loving the college life. In Arizona, there were big changes underway. Jeff and Trina visited a home improvement store looking for a small item. Before they knew it, they had been approached by someone who did kitchen remodels. By the time they left the store they had scheduled an appointment for someone to come over and look at their dated kitchen and give them an estimate of what it would take to update it. Before long the kitchen was a shamble and the family was left to cook using a microwave on a small table in the family room. Dishes were done in the bathroom sink. You never know how much you take a kitchen for granted until you don't have one for an extended period of time.

### October

When October began, the kitchen was still far from finished and problems upon problems were encountered causing all kinds of frustration. Finally, things were finished and Jeff and Trina sighed in relief. That was short lived though. While Trina was out shopping Jeff thought he would surprise Trina by installing the new wood blinds in the kitchen above the sink. While doing that Jeff lost his balance and fell backwards off the countertop where he was standing landing on his back and elbow. He literally had to crawl to the living room to call Trina to say, "I've fallen and I can't get up!" Although they both now laugh at that it was not funny at the time. Trina rushed home to get him up then they went directly to the emergency room. There were x-rays done and Jeff was told he had no broken bones but they did give him pain medication to help him get some relief. Trina and Jeff thought that was the end of the story but that was just the beginning. October was filled with more excitement. Tiffany became engaged to Michael Testa in the most romantic way possible, in front of Sleeping Beauty's Castle in Disneyland. She immediately said yes and now there is a wedding to plan.

### November

By the first part of November Jeff was still suffering from a lot of pain. He went back to their family doctor who said the pain was a result of the trauma and prescribed rest and more medications. Another two weeks went by with still no relief. Trina had about enough and made arrangements for Jeff to see an orthopedic surgeon. The diagnosis? He broke his wrist and his elbow. The emergency room and the family doctor had missed it completely. It had been too long since the accident to cast his arm so instead he was given a sling and yet more medications. So what does Jeff do? Does he rest and take things easy? No, he and Trina tear into the downstairs bathroom and refresh it with new paint, refinishing the vanity, rewiring electrical, and hang mirrors just a week before they were to have a house full of people for Thanksgiving. Jeff and Trina also attended the public open house for the new Phoenix Temple. In the course of three years the Phoenix area went from having the Mesa Temple to now having three working temples. It was an amazing experience that everyone enjoyed.

### December

As December arrived Dakota was again playing soccer. He is on the Corona del Sol High School varsity team playing defense and mid-field. And while the team struggles to win matches, he is having fun. Jeff and Trina are of course there for every match. Trina cheering from the stands and Jeff wandering the sidelines with a camera taking team pictures. Jeff's elbow is still healing and probably will continue to be

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painful for several months but he is starting to see some relief in sight so that is encouraging. The house is busy as usual as Trina and the kids have to take on more of the decorating as a result of Jeff's injury. Trina is starting to think perhaps Jeff planned this. As Christmas nears, Whitney flies home from Idaho just in time for the holidays and just as Idaho started to get very cold. She is definitely not looking forward to going back into the frigid weather.

Looking back at 2014 it has been a year filled with joy and pain. We have struggled with pain and suffering but have seen countless blessings that remind us of how wonderful life can be. Despite of the challenges we are extremely thankful for all of the experiences we have had.

This year like years in the past have allowed us the time to stop and ponder how precious family and friends are to us and how grateful we are to have each of you share these experiences. We pray that this holiday season finds you in good spirits and good health. May your lives be filled with happiness and joy in 2015 and beyond and may each moment be a memory you can share with those you love.

*Jeff, Trina, Tiffany, Whitney & Dakota*

