

# Summers Scrapbook 2017

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It's hard to imagine that December is again here meaning another year has passed. It has been twelve months of incredible experiences that we have shared with family and friends. So, while Trina and Whitney are trimming the tree and filling the house with Christmas decorations, I have slipped away to the office to try and finish the family newsletter before anyone notices I am gone. I invite you to pull up a chair and a cup of hot chocolate and read along to see what our family has been up to in 2017.

## January

The year did not begin well. Just before Christmas Jeff received a phone call from his dad telling him that his mother had passed away. The family went to Idaho on Trina's birthday for the funeral. Jeff's dad is taking it extremely hard so Jeff and Trina decided to stay a bit longer with him into the new year. Jeff was able to work remotely. They worked to get his dad into a routine before they had to return to Arizona. The goal was for dad to come down to Arizona and spend some time with Jeff along with his brothers Rod and Mike. This experience helped to remind everyone how important family is and how they need to band together in both good times and bad.

## February

While in Idaho, Jeff came down with pneumonia that stuck with him throughout this month. Trina told him that he was spending more time with the doctor than he was with his family. Jeff's dad came down to Arizona and Jeff kept him busy going to Spring Training games throughout the month. The two of them had a lot of fun getting to know the new Diamondbacks players as the Cactus League began at the end of the month. Dakota is doing well in Georgia. He is doing a lot of teaching and getting people interested in the church. He continues to tell Jeff and Trina that he was sent there to plant the seeds of faith.

## March

Lily celebrated her seventh birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jeff celebrated his birthday a week later. As typical Jeff spent his birthday at the ballpark watching baseball with Trina and his dad. Jeff spent much of this month at Salt River Fields where the Diamondbacks played their Spring Training games. Jeff's dad said he has watched more baseball in the past month than he probably did in his entire life. He loves going to the games with Jeff and the two of them talk about baseball and life without mom. It is good to see that they are bonding and helping each other cope with the loss.

## April

April began as it does every year with Jeff going to Opening Day at Chase Field to watch the Diamondbacks start another season. Jeff usually takes Trina to that game but this year she gave up her ticket so that Jeff could take his dad. This was his first Opening Day and Jeff made sure they were there early and took in all the celebration that goes with the starting of baseball season. The entire family came to the house for Easter where the grandkids had a huge Easter egg hunt in the backyard. Jeff may have gone a little overboard with the number of eggs. The backyard looked like an explosion of pastel colored eggs with frantic children running around trying to gather as many as their baskets would hold. The month ended with Dakota's birthday. This was rather hard on Jeff and Trina not being able to talk to him on his birthday but he is doing well in Georgia and is excited about the area he is serving in. He has such a sweet spirit about him. Jeff's dad celebrated his birthday in Arizona then went back to Idaho before the temperatures in Arizona became too unbearable.



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## May

There was a lot of excitement at the house for May. While Mother's Day is a special time for the kids to shower Trina with gifts to show their gratitude, Trina was most looking forward to that day because it meant that Dakota would be able to call home. While it is hard to believe that this month would mark his halfway point of his mission, to Jeff and Trina it has seemed like an eternity that he has been gone. The whole family came over to the house to talk to Dakota when he called. He was only to be on the phone for 20 minutes but with the number of family members wanting to talk to him that got stretched just a little. Hopefully that won't be too much of a problem. The month ended with Jeff trading in his yellow Camaro. He loved how the kids all called it Bumblebee and he hated to sell it but in exchange for the car he bought a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camaro which the kids are now calling the Batmobile.

## June

This month was marked with lots of baseball games. Jeff and Trina are spending a lot of time at Chase Field watching the Arizona Diamondbacks play. While Jeff just loves baseball, Trina appreciates spending some quality time alone as a couple. While they may be watching baseball, most of their conversation is around Dakota and how he is doing in Georgia. School is out in Arizona, so Trina is not watching the grandkids which gives her a little more time. Despite the temperatures now over 100 degrees, she still loves working in the yard making it look nice.

## July

The family all got together for Independence Day. It is different in Arizona. Due to the hot temperatures there is no parade and fireworks are somewhat limited due to the fire hazard. That doesn't stop the family from celebrating. They all came over to swim then Jeff grilled dinner. As soon as it got dark everyone went out front to set off fireworks. It was a lot of fun.

## August

August was an extremely busy month. The month started with the arrival of Ryker Kelly. He is the youngest child for Mallorie and James and their first son. He was perfect and doing very well. Jeff, Trina, and Whitney were soon headed to Idaho. There was a rare solar eclipse that was 100 percent totality in Idaho Falls. While they were in Idaho, Cole celebrated his first birthday. Ashley made him an amazing birthday cake. Trina's sister KayeLynn flew into Arizona and rode up with them to Idaho. The family all came out to Jeff's dad's house outside of town to see the eclipse. It was an incredible sight and was much more emotional than anyone anticipated. There is just something unnatural about the sun setting in the middle of the day for a few minutes. Jeff took hundreds of pictures and videos that were sent to Dakota so he could see what he missed. The family had to rush back to Arizona because five days after the eclipse they were going to Walt Disney World with Michael and Tiffany.

## September

September started with Jeff, Trina, Whitney, Tiffany, and Michael in Walt Disney World in Florida. This was Michael's first trip to Disney World so it was exciting to see his reaction to everything. As part of the trip they went to Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party. It was a lot of fun except that it rained through most of the party. Little did anyone realize that the rain was foreshadowing something much more sinister. Hurricane Irma touched down and came directly through Orlando as a Category 5 hurricane. The storm was so big that it forced closure of Walt Disney World and all other parks and attractions. The family was



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confined to their hotel room to ride out the storm. Well, all but Jeff who thought this would be the perfect opportunity to take pictures of a hurricane. Luckily the storm and Jeff were both safe. There was tremendous damage and the family were trapped in Florida for a few more days until the airport could re-open and allow them to get back to Arizona.

## October

As October arrived it signaled the end of baseball season. In a pleasant surprise, the Arizona Diamondbacks made the post-season as a wild card team and hosted the Colorado Rockies. They won that game and went on to the National League Divisional Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers swept the Diamondbacks but it was exciting to have post season baseball back in Arizona. Halloween was once again a big thing now with five grandchildren Jeff and Trina have their work cut out for them visiting each and experiencing trick-or-treating with each one. They had a wonderful time doing that.

## November

November was very busy around the house. Trina is again watching Mallorie's children so every day is a new adventure with three small children in the house. Jeff doesn't seem to remember this much chaos when their own children were this young, but Trina assures him it was the same. The end of the month marked Thanksgiving which is the second year that Dakota will not be home. Although he is doing tremendous work in the mission field in Georgia, it is still hard on the family not having him here. Before the Thanksgiving leftovers could even cool down, everyone was out doing Christmas shopping as stores are now opening on Thursday night. Jeff and Trina could only handle so much before they gave up and went home. They are starting to show their age.

## December

December has become somewhat bittersweet. With Jeff's mom passing it is a reminder of how much everyone misses her. Jeff and Trina flew to Idaho to be with Jeff's dad over the anniversary of her passing. It seemed like a good idea even though it was extremely cold and snowy, two adjectives Jeff hates. When they got back to Arizona they took Whitney to opening night of Star Wars The Last Jedi. Jeff loves Star Wars and Trina just likes to see the costumes the fans wear to the premier. Neither disappointed.

It has been a very rewarding and humbling year which saw the family receiving more than their share of blessings. Writing all of these things down has given me a greater appreciation of all we were able to experience.

As the year closes, we are already looking forward to what the next year will bring. Looking over the calendar for next year I am already exhausted and it's not even January yet. We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and we encourage you to stay connected and join us for what looks to be an exciting 2018. May the Lord continue to bless you and those around you. May you have His Spirit to be your constant companion to help you in times of need and bless you with joy and happiness.

*Jeff, Trina, Whitney & Dakota*