

1997 Christmas Letter

Merry Christmas from Ronda and Art King and our little tiny family. Here's a chronology of newsworthy events from our year.

February: *We rent a motorhome and take the family across the snowy mountains to visit Grandma and Grandpa in Bozeman. Skiing with Grandpa fills our week, along with many fine family memories.*

March: *Caleb now pulls himself up and walks across the room by himself. We rejoice as our friends Bob and Kathy Parish welcome twin baby girls to their family.*

April 5th: *Ronda reaches a prime 40 years of age. Her husband puts an announcement in the church bulletin and 75 people come to celebrate. Bethani writes a fine poem for her mother, you can read it on our family web site.*

June: *Early one morning Taylor sneaks past sleeping parents and snatches Dad's car keys. He unlocks the car, turns the ignition and reprograms every button on the car radio. We enjoy a tent camping weekend with our church friends at Merwin Lake.*

July: *Driving home from church: Ronda - "Everyone should have boys to go along with their girls. Art - "Why so?" Ronda - "Were you listening to the back-seat banter? Sierra just complained that her tights were too small. Brenden immediately asked if he could have them for his rocket launcher. This could only happen with boys in the family."*

August: *While picking blackberries with their cousins, Sierra, Hannah and Bethani disturb a wasp nest. Many stings result. Elissa thrives in a summer basketball camp.*

September: *Bethani and Brenden trek to Montana and visit Grandma and Grandpa King for 10 days of priceless memories. The dog has 9 puppies. Sierra learns to read.*

October: *Ronda and Bethani make a "Preparing for Adolescence" weekend get-a-way. They walk the beach, read books together and talk about life ahead for Bethani.*

November: *Brenden adds to his cooking skills by mastering homemade bread. We all enjoy the results. Hannah can beat her Dad almost every time at a memory card game (showing a brilliant daughter or dull father, you decide)*

WRAP-UP: *We treasure the rituals of cutting and decorating the tree, putting up lights, and abundant Christmas music. Caleb starts to talk, Taylor never stops talking. Hannah and Sierra create much color and beauty with their crayons and paints. The twins thrive in fourth grade home school. Elissa makes us proud with a 4 point GPA and excellent piano progress. Ronda and Art are seven-times blessed.*

You, our friends, are treasures to us. We wish you the warmest and best Christmas season! Art, Ronda, Elissa (14), Brenden (10), Bethani (10), Sierra (7), Hannah (5), Taylor (3) and Caleb (21 months)

Favorite Books of 1997

Family Read-aloud: *The Golden Goblet, Otto of the Silver Hand, Year of Impossible Good-byes, A Day no Pigs would Die, On My Honor, The Trumpeter of Krakow*

Art: *Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose, Byzantium by Stephen Lawhead, At Home in the Universe by Stuart Kauffman*

Ronda: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith, Jackaroo by Cynthia Voigt*