



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. ~James 1:17

Howdy from Arizona! This has been a year of searching and growing for the two of us. We have been stretched in new and exciting ways and have learned the pros and cons of being adults in this crazy world.



Our normal weekly activities still include playing volleyball twice a week. Nate has grown confident enough in himself that we moved into the A league on Monday nights. We enjoy getting out and exercising since we sit in front of our computers the rest of the week.



Work is still enjoyable. . . Becca has officially moved onto the Systems team at General Dynamics and goes to lots of meetings. Her project (Software Defined Radios) has met with some success on major deadlines this year and the outlook for future funding remains positive. Nate continues to design ground software for satellites. His division of the company was recently spun off into another part of General Dynamics. This opens us up to more options if we would ever choose to transfer.



We became members of Community Church of Joy this year and have continued to do our mission work with many of our new friends there. We participate in a group – ACES – for people in their 20s and 30s which has three weekly small groups, and once a month we meet as a large group with another set of small groups. We also have helped a new mission team get off the ground this November. It is called Mission 1:27 (for James 1:27a) and is focused on aiding orphans in Phoenix and around the world. We have been feeling the absence of our YARP work and it has been refreshing to do some work with children again!



In addition to our 'normal' activities, this year has been a year of traveling for us. We have made a major trip almost every month this year, and we have loved every minute of it.

- ~ Starting with January, we made a trip to Chatfield, Minnesota so that Nate could see the small town that Becca's grandparents live in and hang out with a large number of her family.
- ~ In February, we went on a ski trip with ACES to Durango, Colorado. It only took us 8 hours to get there (about half the time if we had driven from Texas.)
- ~ March ushered in wedding season and we made a trip back to Austin so Nate could be an usher for the Grigsby wedding.
- ~ For April we decided to take advantage of our proximity to California and spent Easter weekend in San Diego with the family of one of Nate's high school buddies. We had a great time walking the beach and hope to see the Windhorsts again soon.
- ~ In May, Becca's middle sister, Lisa, graduated from college. So we took a trip to Missouri for the graduation party with the family.



- ~ June and July had many weddings. We were only able to make the Greens and the Lawrences because in July we took a two week vacation to Australia to visit Becca's aunt and her family. It was beautiful and we had a wonderful time learning about the Aussie way of life.
- ~ August held the wedding of our mutual friends, the Hamiltons, and we were back in San Antonio for that one.
- ~ No trips in September, I guess we needed a break. ;)
- ~ October held a men's retreat for Nate and a women's retreat for Becca.



- ~ In November we did our first weekend trip with the new orphans' ministry to an orphanage in Mexico called Casa De Elizabeth. We helped paint the exterior of the orphanage and played with the children.
- ~ Our plans for December are to spend a week in Texas for Christmas and a week in Minnesota for New Year's so we can see all of our family.

We are so blessed to have each other, a home, food on our table, and friends to send Christmas letters. We love all of you dearly and wish we could see you more often. We pray God will shower his blessings upon you this season and throughout another year!



Quotes for the season courtesy
of our friend's four year old:
"How old will Jesus be this year?"
"Am I invited to Jesus' birthday party?"