

# Merry Christmas Ya'll!

What an amazing year it has been. We love being back in TX and we are enjoying exploring the Waco area. The theme of the year was reconnecting. We've enjoyed meeting up with family and friends throughout the year that we haven't been able to visit so far away, but now are an easy Texas drive. Thanks for making time for us!

Hope, a sweet dog, was added to our family in Dec '15 and she has opened up and turned into a good pet for us. Then, we kicked off 2016 with a Moehring New Year and celebrated with the neighborhood around a bonfire and fireworks. A couple weeks later, we hosted a house warming party and enjoyed meeting the rest of the neighbors and seeing some friends.

In February, we had our first combined birthday bash for Hannah (8), Nate (37), and Joel (1). Hannah requested My Little Pony and the boys didn't mind so we had a lot of rainbows!

We joined Waco First Assembly and we've been trying to figure out how to use our gifts and talents there. Nate has been helping in the worship team and Becca helps coordinate outreach. We all participate in their scouting program called Royal Rangers (for boys) and Girls Ministries (for girls) on Wednesdays. We've been very impressed with the curriculum and the District and National level events that we've attended so far.

In March, we had a visit from the Ron Henry family and we did some touring in San Antonio with them. We also added some chickens to our crazy farm. They started laying in July and we've enjoyed having them eat the bugs in our back yard. We also spent Easter at the Coopers. Yay!

In April, Nate ran a Spartan with work buddies and Momma got her porch swing in May. She is still pretty excited about it!

We did a cross country road trip with Glenn and Pat to Idaho in order to attend Josh's (our nephew) high school graduation in June and stayed a week at a resort close by for a little vacation.

In July, we hosted an Aggie 4<sup>th</sup> of July party with some old school buddies. Whoop! We also began the process of getting certified to adopt. We are pretty close to being done with all the requirements and hope to meet 'Sister' very soon with adoption completed by the end of 2017. Please join us in praying for her.

Schooling is continuing to go well. We have a lot of fun with our group on field trips and play dates. Benjamin started 1<sup>st</sup> grade in August and Hannah started 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in September. Joel does a lot of mimicking, and does enjoy books. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, we got to take the kids to their first A&M game and we enjoyed sharing memories during our visit to Aggieland.

I had Nate help me build a garden bed in October and even though it was a little late in the season, we've been enjoying some greens, lettuce, and radishes. Nate also finally completed a Spartan Beast after having to reschedule twice due to moves. ☺

Benjamin (7) requested a Skylanders birthday party in November, and then we had some Moehring visitors, and then drove down for Diltz Thanksgiving at the Millers new house.

We have quite a December planned with a trip to Minnesota for Grandpa Henry's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, a visit from the Milnes, Moehring Christmas in Waco, and Diltz Christmas in Branson, MO.

As we reflect on our year, we thank God for you: our family and friends, old and new. We pray blessings on your 2017 and hope that the peace of God will fill your heart with joy this year!

## Happy New Year 2017!