

December 10, 2003

Hello All!

Well, Christmas just came and snuck up from behind us this year, and now it's just around the corner. You know you're getting older when Christmas comes "too fast".

This last year has been very good to us. Mostly we stayed close to home and visited the Hogle Zoo, the petting zoo, the library, the Salem and Payson graveyards (Cheryl's ancestors settled the area), and our personal favorite - Walmart. We were also fortunate to visit Dan's grandpa and aunt and uncle in North Carolina which included a dip in the Atlantic Ocean. (Yes, Cheryl actually got in without a wet suit and didn't turn purple.) It was all very enjoyable.

Dan has returned to BYU to finish getting his Masters in Computer Science, He just has his Thesis to complete now, so he should graduate by this time next year. He also just got a new job working at Novell, and he still feels a little wet behind the ears since this is his first big company. Cheryl is happily spending the new pay raise in decorating the house like mad. Well, as much as her conservative blood will let her. She has now painted all of the main rooms and is making curtains. She also has a newly acquired toy (apple laptop), and can't wait to begin her Hollywood productions of home movies. We also have a new addition to the family - a brand spanking new piano. It's good to tickle those ol' ivories again.

Tallie is almost four now, and she is just bursting with personality. She just loves to be with other little kids, so we enrolled her in Pre-school last January. (She can now spell her name, and she does it regularly on every scrap of paper we have) We always seem to have at least one of her little neighbor friends over at our house, so we have really put our newly finished playroom and cement pad to good use. Tallie keeps us amused with her fresh perspective on life. I'll share some of the more choice things, because they are just too cute to keep to ourselves.

February 2003 Tallie came running into the room very excited. Tallie: Hey, let's make a mess!

February 2003 Tallie was in her pink dress up having a tea party, and she started to wear bracelets on her arms like floaties. Tallie: I need to go swimming. Mom: Swimming?!? It's too cold outside. Tallie: I need a coat. I don't want to go swimming in my DRESS. I need a swimming coat.

February 2003 Tallie: Mom, what's this? Mom: Spinach. Tallie (crinkling up her nose): Spinach Fork? (Spanish Fork)

February 2003 Tallie: I want a cookie. Mom: No. Tallie: Why? Mom: Because if you have too many, it'll make you sick. Tallie: I'll have one. One cookie will make me happy.

February 2003 Tallie (in pink dress up): Look at me, Daddy! Dad: Oh, Tallie, you look so pretty. You're like Cinderella. Tallie (very put-out): No! I AM Cinderella ALREADY!

April 2003 Tallie looking longingly out the window, wanting to go outside and play in the sandbox. Mom: Nobody is outside yet. It's too cold. Tallie: I know! We'll turn the heater on outside, and it'll be real real warm.

May 2003 Tallie (pointing to a rose): Look what I found! A row! Mom: Oh, wow! A rose!

Tallie (holding up one finger): No, just one. A row.

May 2003 Tallie: I don't want to eat this. Mom: Okay, don't eat it. Tallie: But I WANT to. Mom: Okay, eat it. Tallie: WHY?

June 2003 Tallie wanted to play with some friends on Sunday and after being told that we don't play with friends on Sunday she said, "I'm not going to PLAY with 'em. I'm just going to LOOK at 'em.

July 2003 Mom: You're a smart cookie. Tallie: You're a smart hangaba (hamburger).

August 2003 Tallie: I'm poop. Mom: You're pooped? Tallie: Ya, my poop makes me tired.

August 2003 Tallie (wanting to make a cake): I want to do it all by myself. And you can help me.

September 2003 Tallie: Mommy, can we get a cat and a dog? Mom: No, they make Daddy sneeze. Tallie: When Daddy goes up in the sky, THEN we can get a cat and a dog.

September 2003 Great Grandpa Cecil was saying goodbye, so he asked if he could kiss Tallie on the forehead. She smiled and said "yes" and lifted up her bangs. Then Grandpa asked if she would kiss him on the cheek. With the same excited grin she nodded and did so. Then she said while rubbing her cheek, "You have to go like this and wipe it off." He chuckled, rubbed his cheek and said, "I rubbed it in."

October 2003 Mom: You're my friend, huh. Tallie: Yeah, and you're MY friend. But Dragons are not our friends, huh.

October 2003 Tallie : Is it Christmas? Mom: Not yet. Tallie: But it's almost Christmas. We better hurry and make cookies. (followed by a string of giggles)

October 2003 Tallie all dressed up in a pretty pink dress up. Mom: Are you going to the Ball to meet the Prince and then go get married in temple? Tallie: No - we're not getting married in the temple. We're going to stay at the Ball.

October 2003 After Tyler had stuck his hands in the toilet. Tallie: Oh boy, we'll have to get a NEW baby now.

November 2003 Tyler was trying to get into the opened fridge, and Tallie pushed him gently away. Tallie: No, you're not gonna be food.

December 2003 "ringle bell" (jingle bell)

December 2003 Dan and I were trying to teach Tallie the value of money since she thought that we just had to go to the car for money (Dan keeps spare change in the ash tray). Mom: Daddy goes to work to get money. Tallie (wanting a Barbie): Then let's go to Daddy's work and get some.

Okay, I meant to share only a few, but they are so funny, I thought you'd enjoy a glimpse into the life of a three year old.

Tyler is sixteen months and is such a bundle of joy. We love to watch him discover and learn, and most especially play with his big sister. Tyler is becoming a very good dancer, spinning round and round as he copies Tallie. He loves to follow Tallie around, which annoys her sometimes. I still have to chuckle when I remember Tallie running and screaming with Tyler close

at her heels, "Stop following me! Stop following me!" Tyler is learning to talk and can say some distinguishable words and many that we have yet to understand. We can tell, however, that HE knows exactly what he is saying. It's very amusing.

As you can probably tell, our life revolves around our kids. And it's in these moments of reflection that we realize just what is important in our lives - our family and our friends. Thank you for making us a part of your lives. We love you and wish you all well.

Love,

Dan, Cheryl, Tallie and Tyler