



Happy New Year!

Dan, Cheryl, Tallie, Tyler, Brayden, and Baby



2008

We hope this letter finds you in good spirits as you recover from the holiday festivities. The year 2008 promises to be one filled with excitement for us. January 1st found us in the hospital six weeks earlier than expected with our baby girl anxious to have her turn on earth. We managed to persuade her to stay up in heaven a while longer and have now focused our attention on preparing for her permanent part in our family.



Looking back, 2007 seems like a whirlwind. The year began with us focused on selling our investment houses and moving into a new home ourselves. Between packing, unpacking, organizing and decorating, Dan started a new job programming on the Mac, which he likes, and Cheryl began treatment in Salt Lake for Fibromyalgia. We learned a lot from the tests, but are glad to have that behind us.



Tallie, who goes by Natalie at school, will be turning eight in just a few weeks. Along with a baby sister for her birthday (who she is still adamantly hoping we name "Courtney Elizabeth"), she is looking forward to getting her ears pierced and her baptism. Cheryl promised her a long time ago that we would take her to Disneyland as well, but when we found out that Cheryl would be nine months pregnant in January, we quickly packed our bags and left.



Tallie and Tyler both took up soccer this summer, but Cheryl is determined not to become a soccer mom. ("Whoever decided that you need soccer three times a week should be shot!") She sung a different tune, though, when she watched Dad and Tyler kick the ball around together. We've really enjoyed watching Tyler overcome some of his shy tendencies this year. He loves preschool and continues to have a fascination with science and nature.



Tyler and Brayden have become pretty good pals, though we're still working out some of the kinks of sharing their beloved trains. Brayden loves showing off his latest dance moves and singing along with his favorite movies. At Mom's baby shower, he didn't hesitate to stand on the ottoman and shoot each person there. Do you think there might be a little sibling rivalry in our future?

Well, thank you for making it to the end of our letter. It's good for us to reflect on what is really the most important things in our lives. "Mopping the floor" and "Long commute" never seem to make it into the newsletter, do they? We hope you have a Happy and Meaningful 2008!

Love, Dan, Cheryl, Tallie, Tyler, Brayden and Baby

Out of the Mouths of Babes 2007

JAN Tallie (helping herself to some more spaghetti): "This is my sixth healthing. I had a lot of tomato sauce, so it was really healthy."

JAN Mom (reading a Junie B. Jones book with Tallie): "You need to edit this book. She uses really bad English." Tallie: "Yeah, maybe she's from another country or something. Like Las Vegas or Spanish."

JAN 04 Dad checked to see if Tyler was asleep. Tyler: "Dad, I forgot to go to sleep. My eyes were open, and they forgot to close."

JAN 10 Tyler: "Can Henly Father see outer space?" Mom: "Yep." Tyler (walking backwards): "Can He see where we're going when we're going backwards and closing our eyes?" Mom: "Yep." Tyler (amazed): "I didn't know that!"

JAN 15 Tyler (referring to Tallie): "She's a hundred feet silly."

JAN 16 Tallie: "Hey, is this ours?" Tyler (melancholy): "No, it's not ours." (happier) "But, good thing we play with it a lot!"

JAN 23 Tyler: "My leg hurts. Mommy, I need to say a prayer 'cause Henly Father can make owies get better."

JAN 25 Tyler (holding popcorn kernels): "Popcorn seeds! So we can grow popcorn trees!"

FEB Dad gave Tallie her bank statement. Tallie: "Wow! I have \$38! And look at *that!*" Dad: "That's your bank account number." Tallie: "Oh."

FEB 06 Tyler woke up sick. Tallie: "Why is he sick?" Mom: "I don't know." Tyler (knowingly): "Sometimes when I sleep, it makes me sick."

FEB 11 Mom was tucking Tallie in at bedtime. Tallie: "Mom, before you came in, I was thinking about what it would feel like to be baptized." Mom (heart melting): "Oh, that's so sweet." Tallie (slyly): "And, if I was going to get a hamster."

FEB 14 Tyler: "I'm going to get a drink because my body says, (in a high voice) 'I'm thirsty'." Mom: "Listen to your body then. It knows what it needs." Tyler (drinks): "Oh, now it says, 'Thank You!'"

FEB 14 Tyler (sucking a lollipop): "I don't know what flavor this one is." Mom: "Is it strawberry?" Tyler: "No." Mom: "Cherry?" Tyler: "No." (cough, cough) Tyler: "I think it's a coffee one." Mom: "Why's that?" Tyler: "'Cause it makes me cough."

FEB 17 Mom was playing dominoes with the kids. Tyler: "How 'bout we all be on Mommy's team, so we can *all* win?"

FEB 26 Tyler (praying): "Please bless that the buildings the bad guys live in will fall down on top of them."

MAR 04 Tallie wanted to know how mom and dad met. Mom: "Mommy and Daddy saw each other at a party, and Daddy said, 'Hey, can I have your phone number?' So, we started dating, and we liked each other, so we got married." Tallie: "So, *that's* how the world started?"

MAR 07 Tyler (saying the family prayer right before bed): "Henly Father, please bless the food." (pause) "Please bless the food that we're not eating."

MAR 07 Tyler: "Mom, we could feed bugs, so they don't eat *us*."

MAR 07 Tyler (pointing to a candle): "The wack is melting."

APR Dad (driving the car): "We're almost home." Tyler: "Yep, we're almost home, sweet home."

APR 04 Brayden (wanting his hands dried): "Hands so wet." Tallie: "Hey, he said a sentence! 'Cept he forgot the period."

APR 23 Tallie (with wisdom): "It doesn't matter who is who. It only matters that you are you."

JUN 20 Tallie (pointing to cigarette butts poking out of an ash tray): "Look, smoke stacks."

JUL 20 Tallie: "How do you get wheat seeds? Do you bury bread?"

AUG 07 Tyler: "It sure is hot out there. The sunflowers are making it really hot."

AUG 09 Tallie: "I love this music. Everyday since yesterday we've put it on."

AUG 12 Mom explained to Tyler why our newly formed ward only met for the first hour. Mom: "Mommy and Daddy don't even have a calling yet." Tyler: "You mean they don't have a phone?"

AUG 12 Tyler: "Mom, where's the ham?" Mom: "It's in a package in the fridge." Tyler: "I found the fridge, but where's the ham?"

AUG 05 Tallie: "Mom, can ants lie?" Mom: "Well, can they talk?" Tallie: "They can nod their heads."

SEP Mom: "I'm going to put Brayden down for a nap." Brayden: "No, not go down. I go up."

SEP 13 Tallie (opening the front door): "It smells like Martin's family out there." (pause) "They must go outside more than we do."

SEP 30 The family drove up the canyon to see the fall leaves. Tyler: "We spent the whole day in the leaves." Dad: "Just an hour and a half." Tyler: "That was a very short day."

OCT Tyler (crying): "Mom, when I yell at Josh, he just goes home."

OCT Brayden has learned all sorts of things from his brother and sister. Mom: "Do you want spaghetti?" Brayden (politely): "No fair."

OCT Mom (trying to adjust Brayden to the idea of a new baby): "There's a baby in my tummy." Brayden (pointing to his tummy): "Yeah, baby in my tummy." Mom: "There's a baby in *your* tummy?" Brayden: "Yeah. It hiding."

OCT 07 Mom (reminiscing with Tallie): "It's amazing what we went through to get you to fall asleep when you were little." Tallie (proudly): "And now I'm *used* to not falling asleep!"

OCT 15 Tyler was playing in the sink and was scooping water out before it overflowed. "We need a lot of cups to underflow the sink." (scooping out more water) "Quick! Underflow it!"

OCT 18 Brayden (while eating breakfast): "Look at me! I happy."

OCT 21 Mom (at dinner): "I'm stuffed." Tyler: "That's because you have a baby in your tummy."

OCT 22 Tyler (out of the blue): "Mom, when Brayden grows up, can we *please* call him Guido?"

NOV 26 Tallie (grateful that mom had omitted the tomatoes from the dinner): "Thanks, Mom! You're the best Mom in the whole world!" Mom: "Thanks. I try." Tallie (with her blunt honesty): "Not *always*."

DEC Tyler: "What are you doing?" Mom: "I'm getting gifts together to give our neighbors and friends." Tyler: "Does that mean we're wise?"

DEC 10 Mom singing: "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat." Tyler (innocently): "Who's the goose that's getting fat? You?"