

Dear Friends and Family,

Well another year has come and gone and this one was a very busy year for our family. So I decided to break it down by the months this year since we had so many wonderful things happen.

January - After spending Christmas with Nichole's family in Virginia we went to Jackson, WY to visit Derek's Parents and to have a ski trip with the Millers and their daughter Shyler. It was a lot of fun and Nichole was very careful not to fall.

February - Derek completed his Master's Thesis and presentation to his committee. He passed with flying colors and was able to get started on his Ph.D. research.

March - Derek was officially offered a job to work for NWS-PCD (The Naval Geek Squad) in Panama City, FL. We decided after much praying that it would be the right move for the family, even though it would be really far from family and friends. Derek took a trip during Spring Break to get situated with the job and to get put on the health insurance, which was great since Nichole was starting to get big with the baby!

April - Derek turned 26 and we began to prepare for the move and Derek was able to go camping with his boy scouts one more time before we had to leave. He really enjoyed the time that he had with them in Colorado.

May - We got the stuff ready to be packed, Nichole finished up working for US-Reports which was bitter sweet since she had been with the company for almost 4 years. And we said goodbye to lots of wonderful friends. Moving day was the 18th. We decided to drive to FL with the horses, dog, cat, 8 month pregnant wife and a really awesome Sister, (Thanks again Sam!) We stayed the first night with the Caresia clan in Kansas City, KS and then stayed the second night outside of Nashville. We all arrived safe and sound to our new home in Florida.

June - Thankfully we were already settled since Heidi Rose Tucker was born June 24th. A few weeks earlier than her due date. but a healthy, small 5 lb. 13 oz. She has truly been a blessing in our lives and we are loving being parents.

July - Nichole's Mom came for a visit and to help out which was really appreciated. This month seemed to fly by with relatively few sleepless nights, since our baby loved to sleep (5-6 hours at a time at night since we brought her home). She really is Happy!

August - We had lots of fun with the horses who finally got adjusted to the heat and Nichole was so happy that she got to ride them again. They are now 3 and a half and are doing really well under saddle, even after having so much time off. Summit also enjoys the 5 acres she has to run on.

September - The family came for Heidi's baby blessing, it was the first time that Derek's Parents and Sister Traci and her husband Matt got to see the baby. Nichole's parents also were able to come after dropping her younger brother off at College. It was a great weekend and ended up being on Nichole's 26th birthday which was a lot of fun! We were so glad to have everyone here.

October - Well of course there was Halloween which was so much fun since we got to dress up Heidi like a pumpkin. Nichole made a really cute costume and everyone at the Church Halloween party thought she was adorable! We also had another addition to the family, in the shape of a blue heeler puppy named Nevada. We rescued her from the Animal shelter about an hour to the north of where we live and she had been a good companion for Summit to run with, play with and beat up on.

November - This Thanksgiving we decided to stay at home so we had a fun time when Derek's Parents decided to come for a quick visit. Derek fried a turkey and Nichole made all the fixin's. We also had the Missionaries come over and since we have 3 of them in the branch. right now it made for a full dinner table.

December - We will be going to Derek's parents house this year which we are excited for, we will be glad to see some snow, but I don't think we will be glad of the cold since we have just gotten used to the warm humid weather down here! Well that is our life by months. We hope that you all have a very wonderful Holiday Season and are able to celebrate this special time of year with those that you love! Seasons Greetings!



Love,
Derek, Nichole, and Heidi

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