

# These Are The Days...

Volume 2 Edition 3

Royse City, TX

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Okay guys here we go again. Let's backtrack all the way to November...



November started out pretty quiet. On the 9th we got to go to TGI Friday's on their training night and have free dinner. One of the guys that Jared works with has a daughter working there I guess. It was kind of cool. All we had to do is order from different sections of the menu and we got one appetizer and one dessert to share. The kid did a really good job and the food was outstanding! I highly recommend the Sesame Jack Chicken Strips, mmmmm.

On the 16th Jared had a lunch party at work. Someone in the department decided to have a Thanksgiving dinner, or rather lunch, for all the New Zealanders. It was a potluck kind of thing and unfortunately we forgot that people outside of Utah don't eat Jell-O. But oh well, more for us! From what I understand the whole thing went really well.

A couple of days before the 16th I got a phone call from Mom and Dad. They had ordered us a house-warming gift and it should get to us about the same time that they do. Then I got a call from Yellow



Freight to schedule a Little Tykes delivery, so there goes the surprise. They delivered it on the 16th and the two HUGE boxes sat in the garage and waited for Grandma and Grandpa to get here. More on this story later...



On the 17th we all got to go to the dentist. This came about after I broke a filling and then we had to find dentist pretty dang quick. Lucky for us we found one that we really like. Dr. Chris Chakmakjian...yup, Chak-mak-jian. Or Dr. Chris as his staff calls him. Noah and Jared had appointments and lucky for me they had an opening while we were there. So we all got cleanings. Noah did really well on his first visit to the dentist. He got his teeth polished and even let them take X-rays. He did not like the spit sucker thing at all! Every time she came near him with it he pressed his lips together as tight as he could and shook his head. I went back and got my broken filling fixed the next day while Amanda watched the kids for me. When I was all done we all went to McDonalds for lunch, my treat. It was fun until I had to

climb into the big stupid plaything and drag Noah out.

The evening of the 17th I got to go to a dinner for all the new sisters in the ward. It was really good and they had it at the home of the Enrichment Leader, which was absolutely gorgeous (my new dream house...). I had such a good time visiting with everybody. I just love this ward!



On the 20th, after many, many hours of driving, we finally talked Mom and Dad all the way here. Jared pulled up

Google Earth on the computer, a mapping program that has really good high-resolution satellite pictures, and we talked them here turn by turn.

The next day we loaded the kids into the Subaru and I wedged, and I do mean wedged, myself between them and we went to Wal-Mart and got all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner. I went back to the dentist later that day and when I finally got to leave we rushed to pick up Jared and have some dinner. They were really backed up so I sat there



forever...literally. I was numb for I'll bet forty minutes before we started anything! Poor Jared was at work until 6:30 waiting for his wife

to come and get him! He said that he had to keep standing up and waving his arms to make lights come back on since he was the only guy there.

Early the next morning Tim and Amanda dropped Riley off. Tim had to have a quick surgery and we were happy to keep Riley busy while they were at the hospital. Noah was thrilled to have both Grandpa and Riley at our house for such a long time. We had a good time with the boys and had a good laugh at what it was like to have three kids. Tim & Amanda picked him up later that same day, and after a few complications, I hear that things are pretty much back to normal for them.

The morning that Riley was here we got to assemble our house-warming gift. Mom and Dad got us a really cool swing set that we have thoroughly enjoyed! The kids have so much fun out there and it is so nice to have our own little park in the backyard.



For Thanksgiving this year we brined the turkey. It was the by far the best turkey I have ever had! We jokingly called it



"Jared's Million Dollar Turkey," but I think that it was worth it in the end. We made

way too much food and then proceeded to eat way too much food and the whole thing was really nice. We really enjoyed having it at our house.

We really enjoyed having Mom and Dad here and had a really nice little visit. The only day that we actually cooked dinner was Thanksgiving Day. We went to bunch of really good restaurants and had a lot of fun just hanging out at the house. We were all bummed when they had to go home, poor Noah just about lost it when we shut the garage door and went back in the house. I think that there are tentative plans for another visit in the near future so we'll keep looking forward to that.



Now sometime around the end of the month Jared got a calling in the ward. They asked him to be the primary teacher for the eleven-year-old boys. He has only been at it a little while but I think that he enjoys it for the most part. You wouldn't think that boys could get much more immature than the deacons he's used to working with but I guess they can.

On the 1st of December we took our little nativity set to the church for the Crèche Exhibit. Apparently they are

quite common among the church, though I had never heard of such a thing until we moved here. The church was beautifully decorated and there were about a million nativities there. We went and saw the display on Sunday night, which was when they broadcasted the Christmas Devotional. I was really impressed by the whole thing and we are really looking forward to next year.

Now, backing up a day or two...I took the kids to the new doctor on the 2nd. They both needed flu shots and we wanted to get Tess weighed again since the last doctor we saw was concerned about her weight gain. We found a really good pediatrician!!! I am so excited! I have to drive about forty minutes to get there but it is worth it to have a doctor that I like as much as this guy. When he came into the room he walked right over to Noah and sat down on the floor and read books with him, it was so cool! Tess had gained 14 ounces in about 5 weeks so she was up to 15lbs. 14 oz. and was 28 inches long. He seemed to think that she was fine as far as her weight went and said that he would have a better picture of things at her 12 month appointment after he had had a chance to look over her chart, she did seem to be a petite baby and that isn't anything to get all freaked out about.



Which I think sounds a lot like what I tried to explain to the last brilliant physician that we saw...grrrrr.

Anyways, they both got flu shots and I got a lot of smiles as I took my two bawling kids to the car.

On the 3rd Jared's work held their Holiday Ball. They had it at a hotel in Dallas with valet parking and everything. The food was amazing! With the exception of the rum ball that I accidentally ate, everything was really good. The entertainment wasn't bad and we had a good time mingling. It was really late by the time we picked up the kids and got back home, but we had a nice time.



Then came Green Monday. While I was out of the room for a length of time that was apparently too long, Noah drew some gigantic circles on the carpet with a green crayon. When I asked him what he did he said "fast cars," so we have decided that he was drawing a racetrack. I threw all the crayons that were not washable away and told Noah that he would never get to touch another crayon ever again. Then I rubbed the rings with a dry towel. It helped a little bit but then still left a big green cloud on the floor. I called Jared, and then Mom and then Stanley Steemer and they came the next day and saved Noah's life. Ha, ha, ha just kidding. When the guy asked Noah if he made that mess he looked right at him and said "nope." Dang kid was lucky that the Christmas shopping was already done or he would have gotten carpet cleaning instead of toys. Lucky for all of us they managed to get it out and Noah has been allowed some closely

supervised time with a few washable crayons.

On the 6th of December my friend Stacy and her husband Travis welcomed their adorable baby boy to the world. I just love that all my friends are having kids now; it is so fun to be back on the same page again. Mom and baby are doing great and it sounds like Stacy is having a good time adjusting to motherhood. Congrats to the three of you!

Aiden Richard Fredericks  
9 lbs. 3 oz. 22 inches



The 7th of December we had a little tiny snowstorm that put all of Texas into a panic. One of the guys in our ward that also works at L3 called at 5:30 in the morning to see if Jared was going to work! (He couldn't remember what his name was so he never got to ask Jared, since when I answered the phone I told him that Todd didn't live here.) Texans are a bunch of wimps. There was a little bit of ice downtown and according to the news, traffic was a nightmare, but the roads were just barely wet out where we are. We had a good laugh at the whole thing. I'd love to see some of these people survive a winter in Logan!



On 9th of December we went to the ward Christmas party. Dinner was pretty good and the kids got to see Santa. Noah ran right up to him and gave him a hug; Tess on the other hand wasn't

quite sure what to think of the old guy. I really don't think that she smiled the whole time she was on his lap.

On the 14th Jared's department had their Christmas party. They had a catered lunch that Jared said was pretty good and then played a gift exchange kind of game that sounded like it was a lot of fun. Everybody had to bring a gift that was \$15 or less. We bought Uno Attack and it was apparently one of the most popular gifts there. Jared ended up with a Dilbert day at a time calendar for his desk at work.

On the 15th Jared and I celebrated our 4th anniversary! Four years already...unfortunately he had taken all of his vacation hours over Thanksgiving week so he had to work. It worked out okay, we went to dinner at Steak n' Shake and I think that we might have rented a movie or two but I can't remember.



I don't think that a whole lot happened the week between our anniversary

and the start of our Christmas break. We took some treats around to our neighbors. It was entertaining anyways. A couple nights after we did, a lady who had been pretty curt with us at the door came over with a loaf of bread and kept apologizing. I guess she thought that we were Jehovah's Witnesses or something. Anyways, it was fun to meet most of them and now we feel all neighborly. Jared got to have the entire week between Christmas and New Year's off! It has been really nice to have him home; I know that the kids love having someone more fun than me around to play with them.

Sometime around then I got a calling in the ward too. They put me on the Enrichment Committee; I am in charge of coordinating the playgroup that meets weekly. It should be pretty easy I think.



On Christmas Eve the kids got to open their new pajamas (which they were thrilled about by the way) and we got everybody put to bed. Since Christmas was on a Sunday this year we went to Sacramento meeting at nine the next morning and Santa came to our house while we were at church.

We had a really nice Christmas and Noah helped everyone open their presents. The kids got a lot of cool toys and we had a really nice day. We really miss all the family this time of year, but at the same time we love being at home for Christmas.



The day after Christmas we took all the decorations down. Jared's family was coming in and I didn't want the place to be too crowded when they got here or have to put all that junk away while they were here. We feel like a bunch of Grinches since all of our neighbors still have their lights on.

We got the place all ready for Jared's family to come and anxiously awaited their arrival. They got here on Tuesday evening right before we put Noah to bed. We had the air mattress all set up and ready for them and we all settled in for the night.



They just stayed a couple of days but we had a nice visit with them and we were thrilled to be able to show them our new house. It is really fun for Jared and I to watch the kids with their grandparents. Once again we got to go a couple of the local places for dinner and spent a good deal of time just hanging out. Sherry and Bree and I went to Wal-Mart and they helped me pick out stuff to make a dress for Tess with my new sewing machine. We were all sad when they had to leave and it took some time to get Noah calmed down.



Later that same day I got the dress for Tess all done and we did some modeling. I

am thrilled with how well the whole thing went!

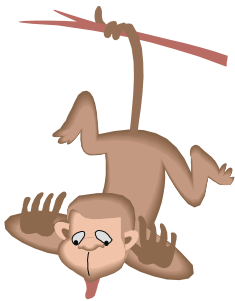
The next day we gathered up the kids and headed down to the nearest fabric store, which is about forty minutes from us. We got the stuff that I needed for one of Tess's birthday presents and stopped at Sam's Club while we were in the area.

On New Year's Eve we watched a movie and then went to bed. Not much of a party, but I guess we're not really the party type. We didn't even watch the ball drop on TV...we were just enjoying the last of our little break and then it'll be back to real life for us.

# EXCiting NOah NEWS

Now you know that you have totally lost any coolness that you may have ever possessed when you start to get all excited over your child's bathroom habits, but on the 10th of December Noah used the toilet!!! Yeah, yeah woo hoo! It was a total fluke and he hasn't done it since. We bought a bunch of training pants as well as one of those little seats that sits on the toilet. That's about as far as we have gotten with the whole potty training thing though. Between his lack of enthusiasm for the whole thing and our irrational fear of potty training we are at a stand still of sorts. I guess we'll see how things go...

In that last few weeks Noah has discovered that he can climb, and he does. He climbs on top of the toy box and then whimpers until I come and get him down. Jared and I found him in the bassinet the other day! He climbed up into in and covered himself up with the baby robe. I was taking a shower and Jared said that he wouldn't have found him if Noah hadn't turned the bassinet music on before he climbed in. We pulled him out after we took a picture and then he ran down the hall and proceeded to try to climb into the crib with Baby Tess. We laughed at the whole thing until later on in the day when I noticed the teeth marks on the top rail, but I guess, "This is why we can't have nice things!"



# Tess is Terriffic!

Tess has totally mastered crawling and has since moved on to pulling herself up on everything. It is really cute to watch her think her way through each movement and of course shortly after she started pulling herself up she started dancing. There is nothing cuter than a little baby shaking her butt. In no time at all she'll be running circles around us with Noah.



We also started giving her whole milk. She isn't quite a year old yet but we started Noah early too and he's mostly okay. ☺ She isn't really very fond of taking a bottle and things have to be just perfect for her to fully cooperate. It has to be just the right warmed up temperature and we are still putting Strawberry Nesquick in it...hey whatever works right?

I guess that's about all around here. Thanks to all of you who sent cards and gifts, it is really good to hear from y'all. We wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that it brings only the best to all of you!

Until next time...