

These Are The Days...

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Alrighty, here goes...

Back on the 3rd of November I did my one-hour glucose screening and failed with flying colors. I haven't ever passed this test so I can't really say that I was surprised; I just failed it by a much larger margin than I did with either Noah or Tess. Ahhh the joys of pregnancy...



The weekend before Megan's wedding both of the kids were throwing up again. We really aren't sure where they keep getting these germs.

The Carter's kids had the same thing; except they started barfing on an airplane on the way back home from the wedding they went to. At least our kids were over it before we left.

On the 14th I had to take Tess in to the pediatrician because she had, brace yourself, another ear infection. We didn't get to see our usual doctor and I got to argue with the nice lady about our travel plans for the upcoming weekend. She asked a lot of dumb questions like "Could you maybe drive instead of fly?" and "Is there anyone here you could leave her with?" My answer to all of these was "No. She'll be fine. Let's just get the antibiotics started already." We got a prescription for a three-day course of something beefy and had it finished

before we left on Friday, so at least we didn't have to fly with an open bottle of antibiotics.

I went in to take the three-hour glucose test on the 15th. I did okay for the first couple draws but things got a little difficult in the end. I got really dizzy with the last one and they had to draw it while I lay down; I guess I should have had more to drink. By the time I left I had been poked seven times to get blood out of me four times. We got the results the next day and I actually managed to fail this time. We have really good insurance so I called them up to see what I needed to do to get a glucose monitor. I ended up getting one for free and they shipped it to Mom's house so we could figure it out while we were there.



On the 17th we flew to Utah for Megan's wedding. I don't really remember much about that flight so it couldn't have been

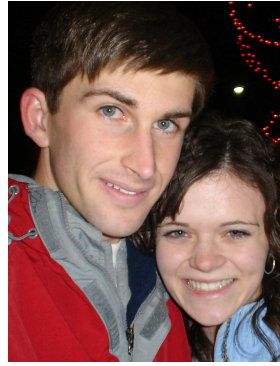
too bad. We got there sometime in the afternoon and managed to make it to Mom's house just before Jared started throwing up. We figured it was the same thing the kids had just had and that he'd be okay in about 24 hours. We felt bad when he missed out on the entertaining dinner we were having but he felt much better the next day... which was the wedding.



Megan and Brian got married on the 18th and now Mom's wedding planning days are officially over. It went really well and everything was nice.

Noah had a ball with the music at the reception and really didn't want to leave when Jared finally had to drag them both home to go to bed. Brian is a hoot and he fits right in with the rest of us. He and Megan rented a small closet in Salt Lake and we wished them all the best and sent them on their way. They are really cute together and we've enjoyed, once again, not being the newlyweds. Congrats and Best Wishes!

Things worked out well enough for us that we were there the weekend that Caleb gave his mission report. He did a good job and we got to see a lot of the family that we haven't seen in a while. We even got a chance to briefly meet his fiancé, though that title hadn't officially



been given to her then. She'll be the third Aunt Ashli our kids have, but the only one who ends her name with an 'i'. I didn't really get a chance to talk

with her then but we've been chatting on the computer quite a bit lately and she seems great. They're tying the knot on the 19th of May and we're planning our next trip to Utah accordingly.

Congratulations to you two as well!

We ended up staying in Utah through Thanksgiving and had a really nice trip. Jared brined the turkey for both of the Thanksgiving dinners we went to! We were there to be in the Crookston's Christmas card photo, which turned out really well, and we got to see a lot of our friends that we haven't seen in a while. Thanksgiving was a lot of fun and we were glad we decided to stay the week.

Our flight home on the 25th was great. We flew out at 6 AM, which doesn't sound ideal but worked out really well for us. We gave both of the kids some Benadryl before we got on the plane, they slept most of the flight, and we were home by naptime.

Sometime while we were in Utah we decided to change Tate's middle name. We had planned on naming him Tate Elijah but after deciding that Tate Elijah and Tess Eliza made it sound much too much like we wanted to have twins we decided to go with Tate Brigham Crookston. So far it appears to be sticking...

I went to the doctor again on the 29th to find that my blood sugars were great and that I had lost four pounds in two weeks since I wasn't allowed to eat anything I liked. I got permission to stop poking my fingers for blood four times a day and instead I only have to do it twice, if I remember. The diabetes has been diet controlled so far and they aren't anticipating any problems for either of us after delivery, when things should get back to normal and I can stop feeling guilty about cheating.



For my anniversary and Christmas this year I requested, or rather ordered, a Christmas tree. Jared and I made a deal that if he got me a tree I would get him computer parts, so that's what we did. I got my tree a little

early of course so that we could have it up this year and so that we could loan it to the Crèche exhibit at the church. We bought it the weekend we got home to make sure it all went together well and all the lights worked. A few days later Jared took it all apart, loaded it into the van and dropped it and our two nativity sets off at the church. The Crèche was nice, like it always is. Everything was beautifully decorated and Jared sang in the choir and a couple of other smaller groups at the concert on the 2nd of December. He really enjoyed it and did a good job.

The Carter's had us over for dinner on the 3rd. We've really enjoyed having

them so close and we're glad that our kids all seem to get along, most of the time. I think that this was the week that Andi and Noah "got married" while we were there. (They had both been to weddings in the last couple of weeks...) Noah and Andi claimed to be married for a couple of weeks I think and then Noah told us one day that he wasn't married anymore but that they were just friends. We're all looking forward to seeing how Tate and Peyton get along.

The craft workshop thing that I agreed to do for Relief Society happened on the 7th. We had a really good time, with our whopping huge crowd of five, and I am looking forward to doing it again. I think that everyone was happy with the projects that we did. I'm hoping that we'll have a few more people next time but all in all it went really well.



L3 had a Christmas Party for the kids on the 8th. Jared and Cameron made all five of the car seats fit in the van before they went to work that morning then Sam and I wedged everyone in the car seats later that afternoon and headed for Greenville. We picked up the guys, redistributed the kids and then we all headed for Pizza Hut and got some dinner. The party, in my opinion, was a little chaotic. We stayed just long enough for Tess to

scream at Santa Claus and the kids to each get their presents. We might have stayed a little longer had their been somewhere to sit and maybe 200 fewer people there.

On the 9th, Jared and I got a babysitter and headed out for a night of toddler-free fun. We had planned on doing this to make up for not going to the overpriced company holiday party and this was our first chance to get out. We sort of called it our anniversary date too. We went to the Olive Garden for dinner and ate enough to make me feel a little dizzy later on. We braved the crowds and finished up our Christmas shopping too. It was a lot of fun to get out and away from the kids, and it seems like every time we do that we promise to do it more often in the future. We came home and Jared unloaded the van, I took Kim home and we commenced wrapping all the stuff we had gathered up. It was a lot of fun...we'll have to do it again.

The Relief Society progressive dinner was on the 13th and Sam and I had a ball. We got to go to three very huge and fancy houses and eat a bunch of really good stuff. They had a really nice program at one of the places and all in all it was a nice break from everything for all of us girls.

For the second time this issue I had to take Tess to the doctor for an ear infection on the 15th, yeah-happy 5th anniversary to us huh. She got a runny nose and I ran out of Sudafed for her and she'd been acting like she usually does when she gets one; so I figured if I didn't get her in then we'd be going downtown to Urgent Care over the weekend. We were a little hesitant to start shoving

antibiotics in her right away because she had just had an ear infection a month ago; Plus Dr. Kotas said it was hard to tell if this infection was coming or going since we caught it so early. He and I decided to see if I could track down some children's something with Sudafed in it (which is hard because they are reformulating everything nowadays so nobody has it anymore) and see if that was enough to get her ears to drain. He did send me home with a prescription just in case...

That night we went to the ward Christmas party, had dinner, and saw Santa. Noah asked Santa for a guitar and then we headed to the pharmacy to see about some medicine for Tess. Poor Noah was in tears because we made him leave before he got his guitar...anyways, we did find some Sudafed for Tess at CVS. So I bought a couple bottles and told everyone I know where to find it. We took the kids home and got everyone medicated and put to bed and hoped for the best.

The next morning I went to CVS to fill the antibiotics because the Sudafed just didn't quite do it and Tess was a huge pain in the butt. Now here's where I rant a little bit. I pulled into the "convenient drive thru window" at CVS and gave them the prescription. When the kid asked me when I wanted to pick it up, I told him "Ha ha, yesterday." feeling a little proud of myself for still having a sense of humor. Apparently he didn't appreciate my little joke and told me it would take an hour and half!!! Seriously! I may be a little biased, given that I've done his job before, but why on earth should it take an hour and half to slap a sticker on a bottle and put some

water in it?! When he told me he was serious I got the stupid prescription back and we (I had the kids with me to give Jared a break) took it to the grocery store pharmacy drive thru across the street. Fifteen minutes later we were on our way home, antibiotics in hand. Bye-bye CVS. Tess started acting like she felt better pretty quick, I think it's all in her head anymore, but we all still had this nasty nose, throat and chest thing to deal with. For several days I would line the kids up every four hours and give them each a variety of medications, thank heaven we're all over it now.

We started trading babysitting with Sam and Cameron this month so that we could all have a chance to go to the Temple once a month or so. We watched their kids on the 16th and they watched ours on the 23rd. It wasn't too bad really and we all enjoyed being able to go and have a nice date. Hopefully we'll be able to keep it up this next year...

On the 22nd we once again wedged all the car seats into the van and Sam and I took the kids to Dannai's house for what I kept calling the Joy School Cookie Fest. The kids had a ball since everybody, even Tess, got to help with something. I made about nine dozen cookies and probably ate a few more than I should have. The moms all got to visit and the kids played together for hours. We headed home around three o'clock, we'd been there since ten, and when we got to the Carter's house to drop them off every single one of the kids were asleep.

Later that evening after Jared and Cameron got home we headed back to the Cox's house for the Joy School

Christmas Party. It was nice, they had a little program that Noah refused to participate in but Jared got some cute footage of him pouting by the door.



We got the kids all dressed up for church on the 24th and sat them down to take some pictures. Imagine how shocked we were when Baby Tess, who always cries in holiday pictures, smiled and said "cheese" and gave us some really cute shots. I joked to myself that this must be a bad sign of things to come and we headed to church. Jared was singing with the choir and stuff again so I got to entertain the kids all by myself and I was right. They were total monsters. Luckily I didn't have to teach Primary that week so we left right after Sacrament was over, and they both fell asleep in the car on the way home...grrrr.

Later that evening we made some cookies for Santa and after the kids had thoroughly frosted themselves we got



them all bathed and put them in their Christmas Eve pajamas. The whole thing was just more

excitement than Noah's little body could handle this year and we almost had to tape him to the mattress just to get him to hold still long enough to fall asleep.



The kids let us sleep until eight the next morning and then we started in on the presents. Santa brought Noah a Fisher Price digital camera and Tess got a very cute dollhouse. The kids had a ball this year and it really was hard to tell what they liked the most. Noah filled up the memory card on his camera, which holds about 80 pictures at one time, three times that morning. We had a really nice Christmas and it was fun to see the kids get excited about the whole thing this year. Jared got his computer parts and I loved my tree. The whole thing was really nice...

Later that day Jared and I started on the preparations for dinner. We bought the stuff to brine a turkey and planned a whole big holiday feast. I started making dough in the breadmaker for some rolls and the stupid thing decided that now would be a good time to catch on fire. After Jared hauled it out of the house and gave it some time to cool, he did a little investigating and decided that the little motor was the culprit. Either way the breadmaker was toast, ha ha ha, and

it ended up in the mound of post-Christmas garbage.

Jared had from the 25th thru the 3rd off so I broke out my honey-do list and we got started...



On the 27th we painted what will be the "boys room." Mom and Dad bought us some really cute crib bedding for Tate so we took it



to Lowe's and picked out paint. It was the first room we have painted but it turned out really well. We still want to do a few things in there before we are "done" but this was definitely a good start. We're really looking forward to finishing it and doing something with Tess' room after we get the tax return. We got all the toys and furniture dispersed throughout the house and it looks really cute in there now.

Jared and I both went to the eye doctor on the 28th and got some new glasses. Mine are a couple of prescriptions old, as I got them right before Noah was born, but Jared hadn't had new frames since 1997 and new lenses since 2000. I haven't seen him wear glasses once in the five years we've been married so it was entertaining to help him pick out some frames. Of course he helped a lot

by grinning at himself in the mirror and making me, and the girl in the office, laugh...anyways, we had to get that done before the end of the calendar year so that we can go back in the next couple of weeks and get contacts. We both liked the place we went to and they are less than five minutes from our house, so you can't beat that.

I had another doctor's appointment on the 29th and everything still looks good and Tate is doing well. I asked about the possibility of inducing so as to avoid having a baby on Tess' birthday, which is the 25th, and she said "Sure." So we're all scheduled to be induced on the evening of the 21st. Woo Hoo! The end is in sight!

On the 30th we got to drop Noah off for Andi's birthday party. They were few in numbers but Noah had a really good time. They played pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, which he hasn't quit talking about, and another game with candy in balloons that the kids had to sit on to pop. Andi was really cute and it seemed like she had had a good time. It's nice that Noah and Andi can still be friends what with the divorce and all...

EXCiting Noah NEWS

Before Christmas, Noah really really needed a haircut-which I usually give him, it had just been a while. I finally broke down and got all the stuff for the hair buzzer out and started to gather the pieces I would need. I had to keep telling Noah that we didn't need the #3 attachment (which cuts down to 3/8") and that we used the #8 on his hair (which cuts to 1"). I set the buzzer and



the #8 attachment over in the windowsill and went to get the oil. I came back, oiled the buzzer, snapped the thing on it and started cutting Noah's hair. Then I'm

thinking, "Holy cow this is cutting off a lot! Geez it really has been a while since we cut your hair." Then Jared came in the room and I mentioned how short it was looking and he very cleverly asked, "Which attachment are you using?" "The number 8." I replied as I looked at it only to see #3 (3/8") stamped on the back of the black plastic.

Other highlights would have to include Noah telling Jared that my favorite shape is a diamond. Isn't he clever?

Noah has also started telling knock knock jokes. They're pretty funny but not in the way you'd expect. They go something like this: "Knock knock! *Who's there?* Nana! *Nana who?* Nana Noah! Knock knock! *Who's there?* Apple! *Apple who?* Apple Noah! Knock knock! *Who's there?* Apple! *Apple who?* Apple Peach! Knock knock! *Who's there?* Apple! *Apple who?* Apple Peach Noah!" See what I mean? Still pretty cute though, even Tess has tried a few though she hasn't gotten past just saying "knock knock" yet.

Tess is Terrific!

Among the most exciting news for Baby Tess this issue is that she finally cut some more teeth. She got her bottom

molars while we were home for Thanksgiving and one of her bicuspids on the bottom around the middle of December. So now she has 11 teeth and her food is requiring less and less chopping everyday.

Around the end of November I started to think about the whole crib situation, you know-how it was going to be really cozy with two kids in it. We decided to try and get Tess into the toddler bed again. On the 30th I got her into bed and lay on the floor next to her. I fell asleep and Jared came to wake me up about forty minutes later. Tess still



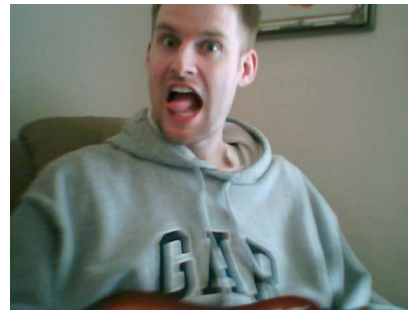
wasn't asleep; she was just lying there looking around. So we tucked her in and said good night and decided to see what would come of it. She has been sleeping in the toddler bed since then. Although lately she has been doing this thing where she gets up right after we close her door, lies on the floor behind the door and looks out from under the door. She falls asleep there so when Jared and I go to check on the kids before we go to bed we very often have to put Tess back in her bed. But hey, at least the crib dilemma is solved...

I can't remember when Noah quit having night terrors but it seems that Tess has jumped on the bandwagon. She's only had one so far that was really bad. I don't remember how bad Noah's got but Jared

tells me they were about the same. I guess now we just wait for her to grow out of it too.

What's Noah Lookin' At?

We here at *These Are The Days...* are always looking for new ways to entertain our readers. We're covering our bases by having another baby but until he starts to be entertaining we thought you might enjoy this: As mentioned earlier Noah got a digital camera for Christmas, thus we are pleased to introduce an addition to our usual newsletter pieces. *What's Noah Lookin' At?* will appear in each issue and will feature a few of the many pictures he has taken over the last couple of months. What these pictures lack in resolution they make up for with... something. We hope you enjoy them.



(Above: Funny Daddy playing with Noah's guitar.)



(Below: Tess dressed up and playing with the toy kitchen.)

I think that about wraps up this issue. We'll keep you all posted on the arrival of our Tater Baby! Till next time...