

# These Are The Days...

Volume 2 Edition 1

Greenville, TX

September 2005

Here we go again folks...let's start off with the month on July...

On the 1<sup>st</sup> we set off with Tim and Amanda for her parents house in Magnolia, Texas. They invited us along for the holiday weekend and after much deliberating we decided to go.

The drive was kind of fun with all seven of us crammed into their Durango. Noah and Riley got along really well and the grownups had a nice visit. Amanda's folks' house is neat and they had all the baby equipment that we needed so we didn't have to haul ours. The kids were good and we took a lot of flack for how quiet Tess was. With the exception of the worst migraine I have ever had we had a great time!



Noah got a splotchy sunburn swimming in their pool and running in the

sprinklers, we felt bad but it was still kinda cute. He even got a ride on the riding mower with Amanda.

The fireworks were great! We got to watch them from a friend of the family's backyard overlooking one of the lakes near their house. Then we had some treats afterwards and tried to keep the boys from breaking anything, since our

hostess was an antiques dealer. I was impressed with how the kids handled the fireworks. I was sure Tess would scream the whole time, but she just sat there all wide-eyed, taking the whole thing in.



All in all we had a really good time and enjoyed our little vacation. We have really enjoyed their friendship and are glad to have them here. Maybe we'll have to do something like that again in the future.

On the 5th when we came back they had been painting the apartment next door and it was awful! I started feeling a little ill and Noah was getting a little upset too. Apparently the bathroom fans here are on the same plumbing as the ones next door, so the fumes just came right in. It was awful and I was more than a little annoyed at the prospect of not being able to stay in my apartment that night. So we cracked all the windows that we dared to (since the screens are so full of holes they don't so a lot to keep the bugs out) and turned on all the fans and went for a little drive.

We drove out to our patch of dirt in the hopes that they had done something that

would help advance the process of building a house there and we were thrilled to see that our slab had been framed! Finally some progress! Check out the timeline at the end of this issue to see the progress of the house...



We decided to sell the Jeep stroller that we bought on Ebay. It was a horrible nightmare and I will never sell anything on Ebay again. The guy who bought it (for \$25 might I add...) refused to pay all the shipping charges and the whole thing fell through. Jared sold it for cash to a guy that he works with and now we no longer have to store it in the bug-infested storage room.

On the 8th we had a neighborhood BBQ at the model home. It was okay...except for the greasy burgers (Jared thought they were good) and the scorching heat. Apparently it will be an annual event so perhaps it'll be better next year.

The next day we went to the design center to pick everything. We left Noah at Riley's house and took Tess with us. It wasn't as overwhelming as we remembered it being and we got everything all picked out and ready for our final review.



On the 12th I had to break down and hang all the pictures on the wall since the relief society president was coming by. We had a nice visit and Noah put on a pretty good show...

On the 14th we had our final appointment at the design center. The whole thing went really well since we

had been there recently and picked out all of our stuff. We just had to get things written up and make a few last minute upgrades...so now we're committed to the point that it'll cost us \$200 for each change should we decide to change anything now. Good thing that we won't.

The next night we went to dinner with the Adams'. They hadn't been to Luigi's yet so we met them there and had a really nice meal. I swear that place is soooo good. On the way home we had to take them out by our house and show them our pipes and they got a good laugh at our expense while we took a bunch of pictures.



We finally got Noah's two-year pictures done on the 16th, along with some shots of the kids together. The pictures turned out really well and we scheduled another appointment to get some new pictures of Tess as well as some family pics too.

On the 17th we had Tim and Amanda over for dinner at our house. It was the first of such gatherings and we had a really good time. I wowed 'em with

Virginia Chicken and Toffee  
Surprise...they left with the recipes for both. Noah and Riley have gotten to be good friends and play together well.

On the 24th I got to talk in Sacramento meeting. Not Jared and I, just I. The meeting was on a variety of topics and I got to talk on friendship. From what people told me I did a good job. I guess I won't have to do that again for a few months...

Allen and Sherry also celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on the 24th. Lots of love and congratulations to you both!



In an effort to save some money on batteries for the battery sucking digital camera I ordered Jared a card reader this month. I think it

has paid for its whole \$16 self already! I would highly recommend getting one if you need it.

On the 25th the kids both had an appointment with a pediatrician here. I hate having to find a new doctor...this guy was okay. The office was a little sparse, there wasn't any fun pictures on the wall or anything. And there were no toys; although Noah did enjoy the fish. I think that we have since decided to keep looking.

Anyways, the appointment went well. Noah was 37" tall and weighed 29 ½lbs! Tess came in at 26 ¼" long and 13 lbs. 11 oz. They are both doing well developmentally and after everyone got

some shots we headed home. We stopped by Sonic since I was dying from



lack of lunch and I had a moment of blondeness and ordered Noah a blue slushy...what a mess. He was stained for a couple of days.

Jared got a calling this month! For the first time since we got married he is not the second counselor in the young men. He is the second counselor in the Sunday school presidency. They put him in charge of overseeing the Spanish gospel doctrine class and he has had a good time with it. He has enjoyed speaking Spanish again and every week he reports understanding more and more words.

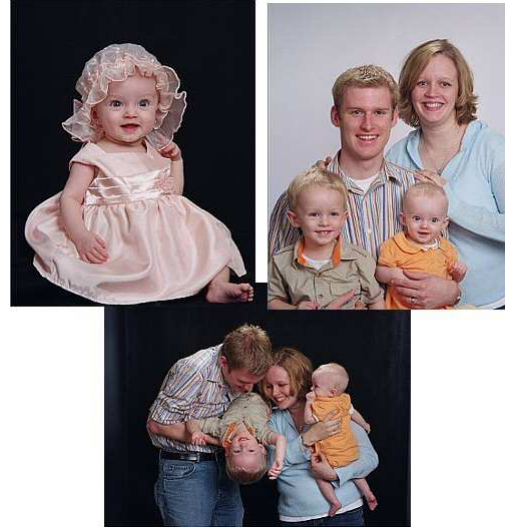
On the 27th we had our plan review with the builder. We moved one window, bought one extra outlet and signed off on the whole thing. Which means that the progress of the house should start picking up. Although while we were there we did notice that our driveway had been poured.

The following Sunday, the 31st, Jared got to talk in church. The kids were being a handful so I missed a little bit of it, but people asked me to be sure and tell him what a good job he did.

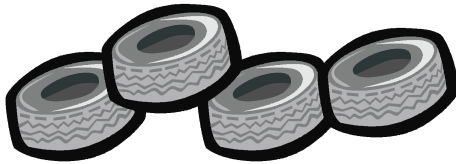
Now we move on to August...

On the 6th I finally decided that I had had enough with my stupid hair. I had gotten really tired of ponytails, and it's too hot to wear long hair down here, so I decided to get it cut. The lady laughed at me when I explained that I wanted it to

be short but I was only 22 so I didn't want a 'mom haircut.' I think that this is the first time that I have ever gone to a real salon to get it done and she did a really good job and I love it. While I was there I got some low-lights (like highlights but darker not lighter) to help hide the dye line, and while you can't really see them you can't really see the line anymore either. So I guess they did the trick. She wasn't happy with them so I got them for free and she gave me a card to come in and have them done again...



After I got back Jared took the car to have it inspected and we were both shocked when the guy passed it. He said that the tires were "good enough to drive on." So I guess we'll get it registered and then buy some new tires.



On the 7th we had some other people from the ward over for dinner. George and Samantha Birkedahl and their daughter Sabrina, who was the little girl Noah kicked in the nose the first week we went to church here...It went okay and we had a nice visit with them.

We went and got the pictures of Tess and the new family pictures taken on the 13th. Once again they turned out really well and we got to pick up the last batch of pictures while we were at the studio.

While we were at the mall we got Jared's watch fixed. It had fallen off of his arm at church a few weeks earlier and so we tried to get a new pin put in it at about a

million different stores before we just had to give up and take it to a jewelry repair place. Would you believe that they charge \$21 just for a watch pin!!!

Around the middle of the month the D.R. Horton sales guy called and asked if we would be interested in having our house done earlier. Of course we said yes and he explained how they were going to try and finish a bunch of stuff before the end of the fiscal year. So we are supposed to be done the end of September!!! How cool is that...



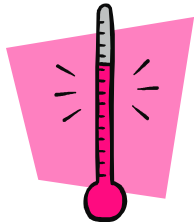
After I said okay and hung up the phone I got to thinking about our lease and the money that we were trying to save for appliances and when he called me back I voiced my concerns He said that they would be willing to give us \$500 to break our lease (which would cover the fees) and that they had an appliance package that we could buy through them that will save us a lot too.

Happy birthday to both Mom and Allen, who celebrated on the 26th and 21st respectively.



For family night on the 21st we went and got ice cream at Braums. I wish that I had had the camera with me because I shared my frozen yogurt with Tess and she was so cute slurping it out of the cone. When we left they were both covered with chocolate...

On the 22nd we awoke to the pleasant surprise that because Noah was unable to open his door when he got up (due to the fact that the door was coming apart) he had cried until he threw up, all over his gigantic stuffed bear. I think that the poor bear may have to be dry cleaned.



A couple days later on the 24th Tess started running a fever, which she had for a few days. Her temperature got really high and I got nervous. We had to keep her undressed and she couldn't sleep with a blanket...She ended up with roseolla the poor girl was covered. But she is all better now.

We had a meeting with a guy at the mortgage company on the 25th and we were pleasantly surprised how well the whole thing went. He was really nice and I guess you could say we're okay with how things are looking so far. Debt beyond our wildest dreams here we come!

On the 27th we had our 'Not going back to school' party. Tim and Amanda invited us to dinner and we had a good

time despite the change in plans. It started to storm and the power flickered. Apparently Amanda has been through this enough times to know that when it starts it is only going to get worse. So we decided to go with plan B and headed to TaMolly's for dinner. Dinner was good and we had a lot of fun, we look forward to doing it again next semester.

## EXCiting NOah NEWS

On the 15th Noah started jumping! Real two-feet off the ground jumping it is so cute. He usually lands on his feet although occasionally his feet are nowhere near the ground and he lands flat on his butt, then totally cracks up.



While we were down getting pictures taken we stopped by Babies R' Us and got

Noah a new carseat. He is big enough for a booster seat and Tess has out grown the baby carrier. So we got to wrestle the stupid carseats into the stupid car and it was enough trouble that they are never coming out!

While we were having our plan review Noah was playing with the toys at the office. Jared peeked out the door and cracked up then I looked and saw Noah sitting very still and quiet nursing a doll...Jared didn't seem to understand how embarrassing it was.



We have also started enforcing timeouts recently. It depends on the day whether or not it seems to be working. Noah has gotten the general idea I guess since we have caught him putting his stuffed animals on time out. He sits them down and stands looking very stern and says, "No...no...not...sit...love you...okay."

## Our House...

As promised here is the time line of pictures of the house...

## Tess is Terrific!

Tess has started chatting in recognizable sounds. She says "da da da." She talks all the time to everybody. Even Noah has gotten in on the conversation, they sit and chatter back and forth and it is really cute.

She has also started to laugh a lot. Really big, red faced, out of breath laughing. She makes the cutest noise!

To top it all off she has just started sitting up! I can't believe how big she is getting. She still topples over occasionally but it is getting better and better. We have had a good time sitting her up with toys and things. It is so funny to see her sitting there all tiny like...



On July 5th the slab was framed. After all the other necessary prep work of pipes, plastic sheeting and stuff the slab was poured on the 23rd.



By the 30th the whole place was framed and we had a driveway.





By the 3rd of August we had plywood on the roof and on the 8th we had shingles.



They had all the tubs in place and the wiring done on the 11th. All the pipes were in on the 14th and by the 17th we had drywall.



On the 25th we turned the corner and were thrilled to see that we had bricks! It is moving along really fast and we are thrilled. We went out to see it again on the 28th and noticed that all the texturing had been done on the wall and ceilings. Soon we'll have paint, carpet and cabinets...we can hardly wait.

So I guess that's it for this issue. With any luck we'll be in the house for the next one.