

# These Are The Days...

Volume 3 Edition 2

Royse City, TX

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Alrighty let's go all the way back to the beginning of July, which seems like ages ago now.

Jared had the 3rd and 4th off and I can't remember all of it anymore but it seems like we had a nice weekend. We went out to IKEA and got the shelves and picture frames for the hall bathroom. It was the biggest store I have ever seen and by the time we were done the kids had lost it and made it known to everyone there that they were ready to go home. We chickened out and decided not to paint, but it still looks great and we're really happy with the whole thing. I used a bunch of pictures from the children's book called *The Rainbow Fish*. Jared did make me a birthday cake that weekend, since we postponed the party a little bit. We had a good time doing the bathroom and have been happy to have at least one room we have "done something" with.



On the 4th the morning was nice and clear and cool which made the breakfast at the church really nice. We were impressed by the spread and had a really nice time visiting with everybody. We bought a few stupid sparklers for the



kids; they didn't have the cheap kind on the little metal sticks that I remembered liking so I had to buy fancy ones that ended up being really dumb. Noah liked them enough and got excited to see the big fireworks later.



We went to see the new Cars movie in the afternoon. It was the first time we had taken the kids to a movie in the theater and while the movie was cute the kids were anything but. Jared wandered around with Tess after she lost interest in the whole thing. Noah lasted a little longer than she did, but after he started screaming at me that he was not going to be quiet I drug him out of the theater and into the rain swearing I would never take him to the movies again. We have decided that the Crookston children will

from here on out be five years old before they get to go see a movie. After we stomped out of the theater we were starving and I was in no mood to make dinner so we stopped at Denny's to reward the well-behaved children with dinner out.

It had rained a good part of the day and there was some question as to whether or not they were even going to do fireworks that night. I was having a little hot chocolate craving so we ran to the store before they were supposed to start. I guess they decided to start them early... We saw a few of them on the way home, got to a really good spot outside the high school, pulled the kids into the front seat so they could see and caught, no joke, the last thirty seconds of the finale. Maybe next year.

On the 15th Jared took the car to the mechanic we had been referred to. I think that it was because the check engine light was on, or maybe it was making a weird noise... I really can't remember why he took it in but they poked around for several hours and in the end the guy only charged Jared \$30 because he wasn't sure he fixed anything. He recommended replacing the spark plugs which made us remember a warranty notification we had gotten a few months earlier and to which I will return later...

After spending the morning at Gene's Jared headed to the church in the evening for the Elder's quorum "Boys Night Out." I guess a bunch of the guys brought in their various video game systems and they spent the evening playing nintendo and eating hot wings, geez the girls sure throw a better party.

On the 19th when Jared headed out the door for work he didn't get very far. The stupid car wouldn't start and Jared had to get one of the neighbors to help him get it jump-started. Miserable dang thing. I was a little nervous since I had to take Tess into Dallas the next day and really didn't feel like having the car leave me there. After work he got another jump start and headed to AutoZone where we were informed that the battery that was in the car was from early 2001. Well no wonder it's dead! So we replaced the battery and it was fine for a few more days.

Like I mentioned above Tess had an appointment in Dallas for a follow up with the surgeon the day after the battery fiasco. After waiting for forever he said that everything looked great and we headed back home glad that we were officially done with all of that.

On the 22nd Jared got to spend yet another whole Saturday bonding with the Civic. We had gotten a thing a while back about some warranty work on something in the car but we were moving and other stuff and it just never got done. Since it was having some "issues" we decided to look into having that done. I had heard some less than flattering things about the Honda dealer in Dallas so Jared drove an hour to the dealer in McKinney and spent a couple of hours in the waiting room while they tinkered with the car. They replaced a bunch of stuff among them being spark plugs and wires and after that we didn't have to buy premium gas anymore! Woo Hoo!

Our new home teachers came on the 23rd. While we were running around

cleaning things we gave Noah the little Swiffer Carpet Flick and he "vacuumed" every floor he had access to. He was so excited about the whole thing that he made them come and see his clean floor before they could leave. Funny kid.



On the 24th Jared's project at work was approved for overtime. Jared started working 10 extra hours a week. While I can't say I didn't miss having him home during those 10 hours the extra money was nice.

The 24th was also Allen & Sherry's anniversary. We got them a subscription to the little cooking magazine that Mom gets for us. They really enjoyed that last year so we renewed it this year. Happy Anniversary again!

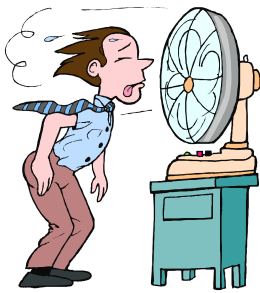
On the 25th we went swimming for playgroup again. I was smarter this time and wore a tank over my suit and lathered myself up with sunscreen too. Tess was a little more relaxed than she was the last time we went so I got to spend most of the time we were there trying to keep her from wandering out too far into the kiddie pool. Noah of course had a ball getting everyone and everything around him wet.

Tess had her 18-month well baby appointment on the 27th. She weighed in at 19 lbs. 13 oz. We decided that that was close enough to the required 20 lbs. and finally got to turn her carseat around. She was a little confused and Noah kept asking us to turn her back around.



On the 29th we headed to Greenville to go to Penney's. Every now and then I get some dumb \$10 off \$10 coupon from them and we were going to get Jared a 'decent looking shirt for work.' While we were on the freeway on the way there, the car started making a really horrible noise which got very loud very fast then stopped abruptly. After the noise there was a little smoke and, retarded though it may sound, we were close to where we were going, the engine temperature looked okay and the car was still running so we kept going. We spent the rest of the drive to the store trying to figure out what had just broken and were more than a little bummed out when we realized that the air coming out of the A/C was getting warmer by the minute. Jared popped the hood when we got parked and sure enough the A/C belt was toast. We got Jared a shirt which started out at \$36 but after all of their sales, doorbusters, and our coupon, cost us a whopping 85¢.

After we got home Jared headed down to Gene's to spend some time with the Civic for the third Saturday in a row. He told us that the compressor was indeed toast and the condenser may be ruined but we wouldn't know that until he got into it. Jared headed home and we tried to figure out how to blow the stupid thing up and make it look like an accident. In the end we decided that we were not going to sink \$1000 into the A/C since it was so close to being paid off we would just use our overtime dollars to pay it off sooner and replace it sooner. Jared said that he didn't mind driving it without A/C and I said fine. Stupid car...



The beginning of August ushered in one of the hottest months in recent Texas history. We had almost 30 days of 100+ degree heat! It was horrible. Kind of ironic how we usually manage to move somewhere just before such an event...record overnight snowfall in Logan, record number of cold days in Colorado...yeah ironic would be the word.

On the 4th, Jared's group at work hosted a dinner out in the middle of nowhere for everybody and their significant other. We had a girl from the ward come and stay with the kids and apart from the ride there and back in the little Honda Toaster the whole evening was pretty nice.

On the 6th Jared started his career as the substitute music leader for the nursery in our ward. He did such a good job that

people have told me that if Sister Judd ever moves they'll recommend that Jared do it all the time. It sounded like he had a good time with it and I am sure the kids enjoyed it, he's way more fun with that kind of stuff that I am. He's filled in a couple more times since then, which depending on the moods of his kids, may mean that he gets to spend the rest of the block time in the nursery-usually with Tess.

On the 7th we started potty training Noah for the last time. We are committed now, no going back. I am happy to report that a month later he is doing awesome and I think we did it! He did have several days of constantly changing his wet underpants and then I finally started threatening to put a diaper on him "like a big baby." After that he has been dry all day everyday. He still wears a Pull Up when he goes to bed or down for a nap but after we started putting the kind that get cold when you pee in them on him at naptime he's been getting up to go potty.

Late in the evening on the 10th a guy that Jared knew on his mission, Cameron Carter, stopped by our house on his way to Greenville. He was here for an interview at L3 and we had a nice visit. He got the job and he and his wife Sam were back out here a couple of weeks later house hunting. We got to visit with them quite a bit and they bought a house just a couple of streets over from us and we are really excited for them to move out here.

On the 12th Jared spent a good part of the afternoon at the Temple. He went and did a session and then stuck around to help with the group of YM/YW from

our ward that were there doing baptisms. I was impressed to hear that they had 18 kids show up and did more than 300 baptisms while they were there. He said he got to sit and chat for a minute with Brother Drewes, who is the guy who is really really in charge out at L3 and is in our ward. Way to make friends in 'high places' honey, ha ha ha...sorry. Moving on.

On the 13th Tess had some nasty cold thing and we decided that she was not well enough to go to church. Jared had to stay home with the kids since I had to do Sharing Time in Primary that day. I got a ride with a lady that I visit teach who lives around the corner so at least I didn't have to ride in the stupid Civic.

On the 15th while playing basketball with the guys at the church Jared rolled his ankle bad enough that he hobbled for a couple of days and we had to buy him a brace to wear. A few days later he felt a lot better but I still made him stay home from basketball the next week.

Here's a funny story from the 16th: I went out to check the mail, without my keys, and when I tried to come back in the doorknob was being sort of flaky and didn't want to turn. Upon hearing me struggling to get in Noah ran over to help...and locked both the knob and the deadbolt. As you can imagine I was just a teeny bit panicked. After several minutes of trying to get Noah to let me in I gave up and headed across the street to call Jared to come home and open the door. I had to try a few doors before I found someone home in the middle of the day. Jared wasn't at his desk so I left a quick teary message telling him that unless I called him back he needed to

come home ASAP and let me in. Tess was sitting in the entryway the whole time crying "mommy," and Noah started to get upset when he realized that I couldn't get in and he was in trouble.

The guy down the street came down to see if I had gotten in yet and then the neighbors across the street got home and there was quite a crowd out there trying to figure out how to get the door open. All of the windows were locked, the backdoor was locked, and so was the gate into the backyard. I really had no way of getting in. Somebody called the police to come and do something and the guy across the street ran to get a stepladder so I could try to see Noah in the window in the door. Jared left his meeting to get a drink and check his messages, which must have happened minutes after I left a message (divine intervention?) because he pulled into the driveway right in front of the police car.

I had been outside threatening Noah's life through the door, while he screamed "No!" every time I called to him, for about forty-five minutes and Tess was so upset she was close to hyperventilating. After we all had a little meltdown Jared went back to work and then I tried to get the kids to take a nap. Tess screamed every time I left her sight for the rest of the day and Noah spent a good part of the afternoon in his room crying for Daddy. Later on he came out wearing a t-shirt, struggling with a pair of socks and asking for his shoes. When I asked him where he thought he was going he said he wanted to go outside; as you can imagine I had had about enough outside for one day and I quickly declined his request which sent him back to the floor

in his room crying for Daddy. Ahhh the joys of having toddlers.

We have laughed about it several times since then and I did manage to crack a few jokes with the lady across the street while we were arguing with Noah through the door but I haven't left the house without my keys since then. I emailed the garage door people and found out that a keypad for outside the garage is only \$50 so we'll be getting one of those in the near future. (Like for Noah for Christmas.)

Mom and Allen both celebrated birthdays near the end of this month. Happy birthday both of you!



On the 23rd we had a little meeting for the Joy School group we are starting for the kids for preschool. It sounds like a really neat program and Noah is way excited to go to school. All the moms take turns teaching so it'll be a lot cheaper than any of the preschools around here and the curriculum is totally laid out so it'll be easy to teach. After I volunteered myself to make eighty thousand charts and calendars and all other things crafty we headed home.

I had a doctor's appointment on the 24th, which was one of those 106-degree days we had all in a row. I was all sweaty and disgusting when I got there and the sight of my nasty sweaty self in the mirror in the bathroom was enough to make me cry. One of the nurses told me that her husband did car repairs and would

probably be able to do the AC for way less than \$1000. Jared kept giving me a hard time that every time I had to drive anywhere I was ready to trade the car...but anyways back to the doctors appointment. I finally started gaining weight and quit losing it, woo hoo I guess. Just for fun, and because I was in need of something pleasant, she looked with the ultrasound to see if we could see the sex of the baby while I was there. The kid was totally uncooperative and we scheduled a real ultrasound for two weeks later. I left the kids with a friend in the ward and Noah was kind enough to wait for me to get there before he peed on the floor. I think this was the day that I started threatening to put a diaper on him. He has gotten to the point where he wants to be a big boy so that has been enough to motivate him and like I said he is doing great now.

While we were having dinner on the 28th Tess was really ornery so we fed her and put her to bed and assumed that she would be better in the morning. Not so. She was a huge pain in the butt all day long and I finally decided that we would have to take her into the doctor after she refused to eat a popsicle-which is totally out of character for her. I called the office at three o' clock and still got an appointment for the same day! How cool is that? Sure enough she had an ear infection. In addition to the usual antibiotics the doctor we saw, not our usual pediatrician but someone else in the office, gave us some ear numbing drops for her too. I'll admit I was a little skeptical at first but we filled them and gave them a shot and WOW! They were awesome. She only woke up once the whole night! It was amazing. I would highly recommend getting them to

anyone with cranky little ear infections who won't sleep.

Sometime around the end of the month Jared took the car to get it inspected and, brace yourselves, it failed. Shocking isn't it? After much tinkering and replacing of sensors and stuff it still wouldn't just be fixed so we found ourselves in a bit of a pickle. The computer was toast and we weren't even sure that replacing that would fix it. So we decided that we were done catering to the Civic's whims and would seriously look for a new car the next time we had an available moment.

## EXCiting Noah News



Like I mentioned before Noah is mostly potty trained now! Hallelujah! He's to the point where all we have to do is help him onto the potty and hand him a piece of toilet paper. That's it, then we're done. We looked and looked for some toddler sized underpants but finally ended up ordering them online. Noah helped pick the characters he wanted and was thrilled when they finally showed up. So he gets one pair of "big boy underpants" (the character ones he picked out) per day. If he pees in those he wears "baby underpants" (Gerber training pants that

have the picture of the Gerber baby on the tag, hence the nickname "baby underpants") and if he pees in those I will put a diaper on him, which I haven't had to do yet. It has been a long time since he wet his pants now, looking back just now I can't remember the last time and we are thrilled for all of us.

Also mentioned above Noah is going to start going to preschool. He is so excited to go and I am looking forward to the "Me & Tess" time to run errands and things on the weeks I don't have to teach. He'll be at school Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 so we let him pick out a lunchbox to take to school and this is what he picked...



He calls it his "Scooby Gooby lunchbox." I had no part in this, Jared and I don't watch

Scooby Doo and Noah has only seen a handful of episodes. We tried to order one online but they were back ordered so we stopped by Toys R' Us one day and Noah excitedly grabbed the last one off of the shelf.

## Tess is Terrific!

Baby Tess has 5 teeth now! We are so glad that she is finally starting to get them...although it has been a while since she cut a new one, hmmm.



She is getting super chatty lately and is constantly saying new things. Her most used new phrase is "pockle mommy?" which means she wants a popsicle-which she usually does. She has also started getting upset when Jared goes to work or scout meetings (we have mentioned that he is now the Assistant Webelos leader haven't we?) anyways, she runs to the door, with her shoes in hand, saying "go with you, go with you." She also says "I love you" now, along with "where'd mommy/daddy/Noah/baby (her bear)/blankie go?" After you get out the camera and she says "cheese" she then wants to see the picture you just took, so she says "see the baby." Then while she looks at herself on LCD screen on the back of the camera she says, "Hi baby."



She has also gotten to be a total monkey! Every time I turn around there is Tess scaling something she shouldn't be.



We have also come to learn during these

last couple of months that Tess has a

paralyzing fear of bubbles. She totally freaks out every time we try to put her in the tub with bubble bath and really panics when they turn the bubble-machine on in the nursery.

And last but not least...her hair (notice the little ponytails in the picture on the left). We have had sooo much fun with her hair now that it is finally long enough to do something with. Hehehe...

## Sneak Peaks!

Since this edition is coming out so late and the first week of September was a newsworthy one we thought we would give you a teaser into the next edition, so...



On Labor Day we traded the car for a fancy new (to us) minivan! It even has A/C that works!



On the 6th we found out that we're having a little boy, to be named Tate Elijah Crookston.

Catch those stories along with Noah's wonderful wall art...our failed attempt to get some new pictures of the kids...we finally got Tim and Amanda over again...the one year anniversary of our house...and much, much more.