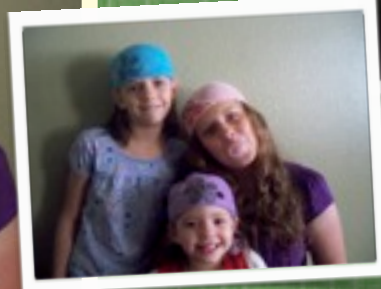


Russell Family

AUGUST 2008

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE...



The girls wearing their head coverings made by our Israeli friend, Meital.

August busy, yet not really busy....

Our friends: The Moffetts

This is the family that helped watch our children while I was in Israel. Father: Jon, Mother: Amy, Children from oldest to youngest: Brittany, Jonathan, Victoria, Annie, Allie and Amanda Joy. They are



This is little Joseph, he was a foster baby of the Hewitts for the first 5 weeks of his life.

all decked out in camo to support some teaching at church about warfare.

Hannah Ruth When I first got back to Springtown, Hannah and Daniel did not want to leave me when we went to church. So Hannah who is much too big for the nursery went to the nursery with me. She got to enjoy the nursery celebration of Liberty Bruce's 2nd birthday.

Getting things back in order August has seemed like a busy month just getting things back in order after being gone to Israel. Weird how going away from home for such a short time can make you 'need' to get things back in order. Even though Sarah and the Moffetts did a wonderful job caring for my house and my family.

Foster The little guy in the corner in the camo is Bubba (D'tavian), he is the foster child of Deana Snell. He is a very handsome boy, he is six weeks older than



Daniel and he is a very sweet little guy. A great blessing to our 'Real Family'.



He is absolutely beautiful.

THSC Conference, Brings Daddy Home...

Since we had the conference on the calendar for a long time, he was able to come home from Israel to attend.

Darrel flew in late Tuesday night and we left Thursday morning for Houston. The conference was wonderful. If at all possible we do not want to miss it ever again.

Children's program Jordan, Stephen and Hannah all attended the children's program. It was so well planned and executed. The children had a great time, learned a lot and did a wonderful performance at the end of the conference. They rotated between time with their small group and time in the large group.

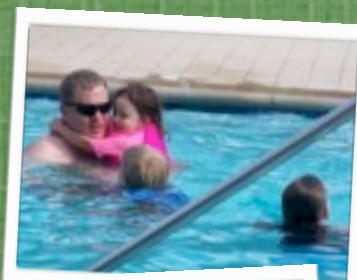
Teen Program Sarah participated in the Teen program. They rotated between times of service where they worked at different jobs at the conference, training where they learned things like speed reading and times of fun where they played team building games. She

had a wonderful time and made new friends.

Adult Workshops Daniel went to the Adult Workshops and shopping with us. The first day, he slept quiet a bit since he had not slept at all the night before. We enjoyed the keynote speaker: Jeff Myers and everyone enjoyed the special speaker, John Eriksson, author of Hank the Cowdog as he shared some songs and stories with us all.

Houston We stayed in the hotel that hosted the conference and so it was all very convenient. Out our eleventh floor window we could see the river-walk, one night we took the water taxi (boat) and road it down to the mall area. We ate in the mall and let the children ride on an indoor caravelle. Then road the boat back in the dark and enjoyed all the lights. One night we went out to a water fountain area that had the water choreographed with lights to music and had an area where the kids could play in the water and we let the kids play, what a mess! They had a wonderful time.

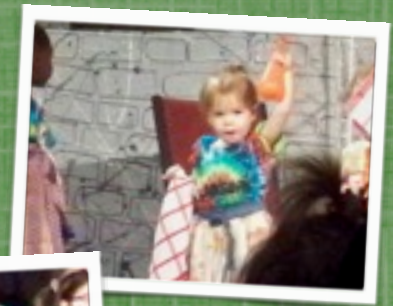
We drove home on Sunday and Darrel went straight home as he had a cold.



Daddy was home for 8 days before he had to go back to Israel. It was a busy 8 days, but it was great to have him home. Even though home was not really home, we were in Houston for several days.

Mineral Wells Crusade Joshua and Jonny drove home from Crossview camp for the last time. Their work there is over. Joshua was sick and went straight to bed, Jonny got ready and went to the church to go to the crusade. We meet the team on Hwy 51 so they could pick up Sarah and she could go work the crusade. The crusade ran Sunday through Wednesday and the kids were the entertainment each night. Joshua was not able to go Sunday or Monday due to his cold, but he went Tuesday and Wednesday. This was their third year to do this crusade and our first year not to go with them... We were sad, but Darrel was sick until Tuesday and then had so much to do before going back to Israel.

Daddy Time Wednesday we took Hannah and Jordan to the dentist (Hannah lost a crown and Jordan had a cavity and then we picked up the other kids and went to lunch for some Daddy time before the big kids went to the crusade and the rest of us went to church. The younger kids are doing their summer musical on Sunday but Dad wont be here so we sat in on the rehearsal so he could see them perform. Thursday morning before the kids got up, Daddy left for the airport. He plans to be home by the first of October.



*August
24
2008*



*Real Family
Fellowships
Children's
Musical*



**Some good life lessons
were learned as the
kids learned about the
life of Joseph.**

Darrel missed the whole production.
90% of the practices and



the production itself all happened after Darrel went to Israel. But the time that he was home to go to the THSC conference, he was here for one church service on a Wednesday night and it was the last Wednesday before the musical and the cast did a run through of the whole program and so we sat in on that and he got to watch it.

Jordan had a couple of special parts in the musical. She was in a dance called "one cool Joe" and she was in the 'stomp' song "It's the Pits". The rest of the time she was in the choir. **Stephen** was in the choir and enjoyed the fun

**Joseph - From
the Pits to the
Palace**

things they did including playing one song on pie pans.

The Preschoolers including Hannah were in the very first song and in the very last song. And in the middle they came and sat with their parents.

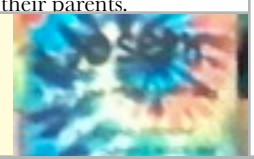
Children are a blessing from the Lord.

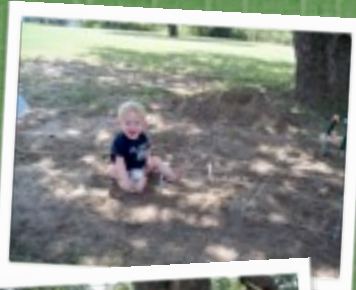
This little cutie is Hailey she is the 'foster' child of Mary and Andy.



Neat Thing

We will be studying Joseph in our schooling this year.





Off to a GREAT Start!

Today was a fun school day. We are using a plethora of curriculum including: Mystery of History; Creation to the Resurrection, Eagles Wings A Complete Guide to Celebrating our Messiah in the Festivals, Greenleaf Press books including Famous Men of Greece, An Activity Guide to the Old Testament Days, several books I got from Israel; including Food at the Time of the Bible, Life at the Time of Jesus and the books that we got from each place we visited, along with several library type books. After reading the intro to quarter one and lesson one of Mystery of History, we did an activity that I based off a project in the Activity Guide to the Old Testament Days "Dig your own Archaeological site".

We still need to do a wrap up and the kids will write reports (varying with their ages and abilities, but I am excited and so I will write my report here.



Ouch! History cut me!

Archaeologists Dig for Clues

We read a book "Archaeologists Dig for Clues" by Kate Duke. It took us a couple of days to read this as it was full of information and could not be read and assimilated by my younger ones in one sitting. In the back ground, Jonny was preparing the site for me. First he dug a rectangular hole that was about 2 foot by 4 foot. Then we got two different terra cotta type pots, broke them into a few pieces and Jonny buried them in sand in the hole and then covered them with a layer of dirt to make it look like the ground prior to the digging. Then Joshua went out and placed the grid using stakes and twine. Then the Archaeologist and volunteers went out to do the dig.

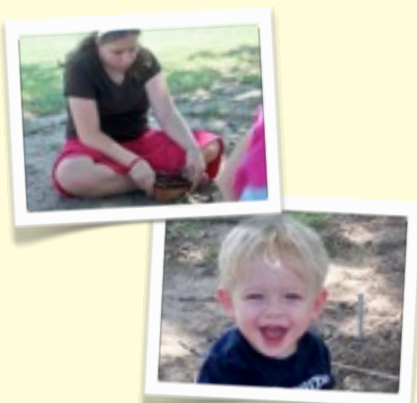
I first explained to them about the grid and we played a game of where is the grid and I would call out a location "A3" and they would find it or put Daniel into it.

I was amazed that I did not even have to explain much about this and Stephen new where they

were immediately. Then I explained how to dig in order to preserve the integrity of the site and then they went to work. They were each so excited when they found a 'treasure'. Stephen was a little dismayed when everyone had found one or two before he found one, but then when he found one he was doubly excited. Though he cut his finger on the find. After finding what they thought were all the pieces and cleaning them off and logging them on their grid paper the pieces went into the house so they could be reconstructed into their original shape. Or as near to that shape as we could get with a hot glue gun. (Though a few hours later I was brought a new found piece with much excitement!) We will probably read the book again and they will do some sort of report to wrap it up, but that will be tomorrow.



Now all the kids have decided that they want to be Archaeologists. They have filled and dug out that hole more times than I can count! They have uncovered numerous civilizations!



You Tube - I have put two little videos of the kids on You Tube. I did it so that Daddy could look them up and see the kids. It is also nice for the grandparents so they can see how the kids have grown.

It's just my size!

The day that Jonny dug the hole for the project Hannah found it and came running into the house. She said "Momma, Jonny is going to bury me." I of course said "oh no he is not" and she responded with "yes, he is, I found the place and it is just my size." The other kids came in and said she had laid down in it and thought for sure it was just her size. Jonny took her out and told her he was just practicing digging good holes.

A few days later Jonny had filled the hole in and it was ready for the project. Stephen and Jordan came up while I was talking to one of the neighbors and asked where Ginger was, I told them I am sure she was at the neighbors and they insisted that she was not, they had called for her and she was not anywhere. They started acting weird and then they came up and said, Mom, it's ok, you can tell us... we found the grave where Jonny buried her. Without laughing I assured them that she was not buried in that 'grave' and we went off to find our dog and assure the kids she was alive and well.

So I guess the moral of the story is, if you want to draw a LOT of attention to an area, dig a hole and leave it there for kids to discover!