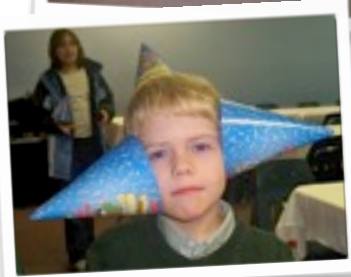
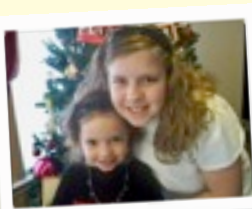
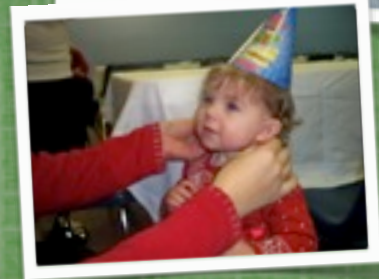


# Birthday Celebration!

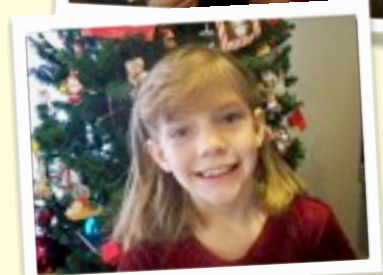
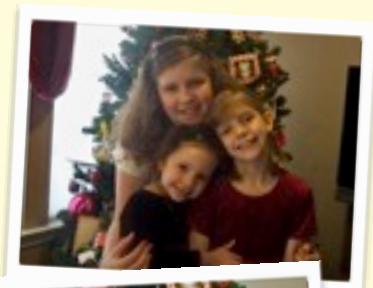
Happy Birthday, Jesus!



**R e a l F a m i l y Fellowship** At church we had a parade of some of our greatest gifts... our children. We then had a birthday party with games, cake, ice cream and pizza. Stephen and Daniel really liked the birthday hats. Hannah loved getting dressed up and Jordan liked the games and prizes. It was a fun time for all.



*My pretty girls  
dressed up for Christmas.*



# Holiday Traditions and More.....



**Sushi!** No sushi doesn't have anything to do with our holiday traditions, but... Joshua drew Taylor Huse's name in the gift exchange on their ministry team and she loves sushi. So we made her a batch of sushi, candy sushi that is. Sarah drew Tori Bruce and she made Tori a basket that was full of Three Musketeers, including the ingredients and recipe to make her own bars and recipes to make different desserts out of the bars.

**Baking and candy making** One of our traditions is to make candy and baked goods for the neighbors and friends. This year we made chocolate, caramel, toffee covered apples. In addition to these we made: homemade cinnamon rolls, tiger butter, red rivers, peppermint bark and various chocolate molds. We had a nice time delivering them to family and friends and neighbors and praying for each while making them.

**Birthday Cake** This year, Sarah made the birthday cake for Jesus while we were making and baking all the other goodies. Christmas morning we sang Happy Birthday to Jesus and enjoyed the cake.



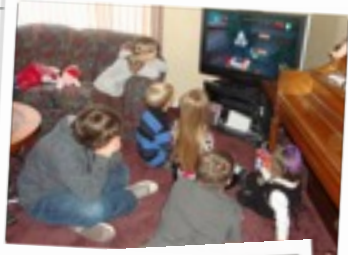
*Daddy read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke chapter two and then we took communion as a family.*



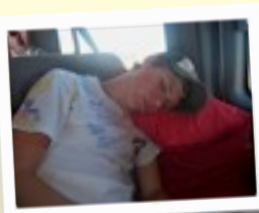
*Daniel enjoyed finding all the goodies in his stocking... pillow case. Yes our stockings get sort of out of hand. But they are fun for all.*

# Christmas with the Sadlers

In Slaton



**We drove into Slaton Friday around 5:30pm** We unloaded, hugged everyone and then got back into the car to drive to Lubbock for Maddison's 2nd birthday party. Maddison is Dustin and Amanda Sadler's daughter. Dustin is James' firstborn and James is my second oldest brother. (Might need to read that again to get the leniage correct.) We then went back down to Slaton for tortilla soup. Then we went to the hotel in Lubbock. The girls spent the night with Taelor and Natalie (my baby brother, John Mark's little girls) Saturday morning we went back down to Slaton, we made enchiladas with all the trimmings for lunch and much of them family came. (James and family, David and family, Loy and family, Michael and boys, John Mark and family, LeAnn and family, Nana and Papa) We then went to a late matinee for Natalie's 6th birthday and then to Pizza Hut to eat. Then to Nana's and then back to the hotel. It was a fun filled day. The kids played outside a lot and enjoyed their time with their cousins, Aunts, Uncles and Grandparents.



*The boys spent the night with their cousins and stayed up all night, so they both slept all the way home from Lubbock.*



# Christmas with the Russells

In Lubbock



**Great Group Picture** The entire Russell family went to church Sunday morning at Trinity. I started going to Trinity with my parents the summer before fourth grade. Then around 9th grade Darrel and his family started attending there also. Darrel and I met there and we were married there. Darrel's parents still attend and his father is an elder. It was wonderful to have everyone together in one place for church. We then ate out at Furrs where Grandmother taught Hannah ow to drink jello through a straw. Next we went to Grandmother's house and played cards and just enjoyed the day together. Aunt Shelby and Aunt Sherry made chili. And Jordan, Hannah and Joe helped Aunt Shelby with her spicy batch. Daniel loved it and had several bowls. Joshua and Jonny spent the night with their cousins and stayed up all night. The next day they regretted it, but they said it was silly and fun. Monday we meet the Russell's that could make it for breakfast and then we hit the road to go home, as Joshua had to go to work on Tuesday at 4am. (He had to drive to Houston.)



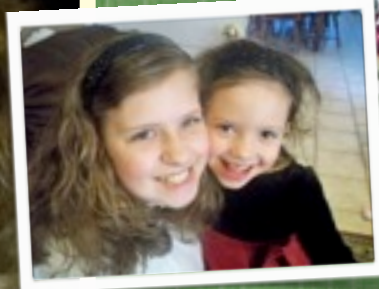
*Though it was short, we had a great time with the Russell Family.*

# Sarah turns 14

DECEMBER 19

SARAH ELIZABETH RUSSELL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



*The Princess is becoming a young lady and doing so beautifully.*

## Our Little Princess is Growing Up

**It does not seem possible that it has been 14 years....**

Sarah was due December 12th, her aunt Shelby was hoping for December 16th, but both came and went and our little princess was not here. On the morning of the 19th, I went in for an induction. It was very cold at 5am and Darrel let me off at the front door of the hospital and he parked the car. I went and sat in the lobby near the door to wait for him. As I waited I prayed. One of the things that I prayed about was what to name our little princess.

Darrel knew he wanted her name to mean princess and we also were resolute in our decision to let the Lord give us her name. As I sat there and prayed I thought about how I wanted her to be given to God. I thought about the pregnancy and how we had lost her twin very early in the pregnancy and it made me think of Hannah. How Hannah wanted a child and when she had a child she gave him back to God. We believe that the Lord gives us our children, but they still belong to Him and we are commissioned to raise them for Him. So I thought how I wanted Sarah to be consecrated to God. At some point in my praying I looked up at a plaque on the wall behind me and found a verse in 2 Chronicles that talked about the people being consecrated to God. I knew this was a confirmation that God heard my prayer and that her name was to

mean consecrated to Him. We searched through the baby names we had discussed and found that Elizabeth means consecrated to God and oath to God. So

### 2 Timothy 2:22

*Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

we named her Sarah meaning princess and Elizabeth meaning consecrated to the Lord. I remember thinking, that Sarah was an old woman's name. I did not know any young people with the name



Sarah has set herself apart and she has a beautiful pure heart.



### 1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.



# Our Princess, Sarah Elizabeth Russell



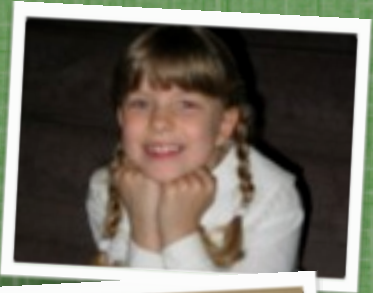
name. All I could think of was Sarah of the Bible and she was old. Then the Lord laid it in my heart that Sarah would be the mother of many just as the Sarah of the Bible was a mother of nations.

It was a wonderful thing to have a baby around Christmas. I remember sitting holding her with the only light in the room being the twinkling lights on the Christmas tree.

I hope that she thinks having a birthday in December is a good thing. I personally could not ask for a better gift than the gift that the Lord gave me the day He filled my womb with her.

She is such a blessing to me everyday. She helps me to get accomplished what I need to get done. I enjoy listening to her tell me stories and share things that are important to her. Her smile brightens my days and lightens my load.

I know that someday she will be a wonderful helpmate to the man that the Lord has created just for her.



*Sarah seemed to be born with the knowledge and the need to mother. And she is very good at it.*