

# Russell Family

NOVEMBER 2008

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE...

THANKFUL



*Joshua, Jonny, Taylor and Brittany go and hold signs outside voting places during early voting.*

## A letter to my children

### Dear Daniel Josiah;

This is actually a letter to all my children, but I want it to be addressed to each of them personally. Dear Joshua, Dear Jonny, Dear Sarah, Dear Jordan, Dear Stephen, Dear Hannah Ruth and Dear Daniel Josiah.

First, I want to start this letter by letting you know that even though we just had probably the

biggest/most important election of my lifetime and it seems we did

not win the race for president. God is still God and He still reigns supreme! He still listens to the prayers of His people (*Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 28:9*) and they are still effective. (*James 5:16*) As of today our pledge and our coins still say 'Under God' and "in God we trust". *Psalms 91:2* says "I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." And we do trust in Him. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (*Joshua 24:15*) There is such incredible peace in that

knowledge. At times like this I feel an overwhelming need to run to my Father and rest in His arms like

*Psalm 27:5  
For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.*

Daniel comes and nestles into my arms when he is hurt or tired. Our heavenly Father is our refuge. He is our fortress, He is our shelter.



*(Psalms 27:5, Psalm 61:4, Psalm 91:1)* There is such peace in just knowing that is true and unwavering. Our family sacrificed yesterday for the election (Mom, Dad and Joshua worked the polls from 6 am –8:30pm and Jonny and Sarah stayed with the little ones and cared for them and kept them safe.) We have worked for this election for several months as a family, attending various fund raisers, County meetings, putting out signs, stuffing envelopes, making phone bank phone calls encouraging people to get out and vote, writing letters, helping with a candidate forum, and much more. I do not want you to think we did it in vain. Obama becoming president does not mean our work was not worth it. I received a note from Huckabee and he said "Politics is not an event but a process. We sometimes lose the events but it never gives us the right to stop being faithful to our principles that enlisted us in the process. We shall live to fight another day." And I must agree. We do not have the right to stop being faithful to our principles. We did not work this election because we wanted to get to say that we were on the winning team. We are involved in this process because we have strong founded convictions and we believe that it is our duty to stand for these convictions. Just because Obama is president does not mean we can stop fighting for

the lives of the unborn. They still need to be protected. America still needs to stop the bloodshed and stop killing the most innocent. Just because Obama is president does not mean we can stop fighting for family values with things like the definition being between one man and one woman as the Bible describes. Now we may have to work even harder than ever before, but that is ok. For we know that we do not work for men but for our heavenly Father. *Colossians 3:23-24* We must not sit back and be complacent or sit back and simply complain because we did not win, the fight is not over! I must continue to fight because I need for this nation to be a God fearing nation for you, my son, my daughter, my grandchild. So what will we do now? We will pray. God's Word has not changed. We are told in *II Timothy* to pray for our leaders. It doesn't say if we like our leaders we should pray for them or if we agree with our leaders we should pray for them, it says we are to pray for our leaders and like it or not, Obama is becoming the president of our nation. More than any other man in this nation at this point in time, he needs salvation. We need him to find Jesus and receive the gift of salvation. Christ died for Obama, he just has to receive the gift and we NEED him to receive the gift. Our nation needs him to receive the gift. Our world needs him to receive the gift. We MUST

humble ourselves and pray for Barak Hussin Obama.  
In closing, let me once again remind you. Joshua, Jonny, Sarah, Jordan, Stephen, Hannah, Daniel, God is still God and he still rules from His throne supreme.  
With love and devotion,  
Your Mom  
*Proverbs 15:29*  
*The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.*  
*Proverbs 15:8*  
*The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.*  
*Proverbs 28:9*  
*If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.*  
*James 5:16*  
*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*  
*Joshua 24:15*  
*But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*  
*Psalms 27:5*  
*For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.*  
*Psalms 61:4*  
*I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. Selah*  
*Psalms 91:1*  
*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*  
*Colossians 3:23-24* *23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Joshua and Darrel got up and went to breakfast with Jay and Todd at Howells at 4:45 am. I got up and read the Bible including II Timothy 2 and many others. I also studied over the election book yet one more time. I did not want to make any mistakes. I then went by and picked up donuts and talked to the people at the donut shop about getting out and voting. One of the hardest things for me today would have to be that I am not allowed to wear my pro-life pin or talk about my convictions with the people who come to vote. No Electioneering! We had to have one voter go and move his vehicle because he had written something on it. In order to protect Krisha, I will not



mention who it was who had to move his vehicle. though my understanding is, he proceeded to drive it round and round the building before leaving. We also had to

have one young person take off their shirt because it was endorsing a candidate. At our precinct we only had one candidate come by and break the rules by electioneering in the polling place, though he tried to cleverly disguise it by pretending he was only there to meet and greet all the workers as they went around and introduced him to the clerks and judge by his name and the office that he was running for while voters were in their booths. It was at times like that frustrating, but the majority of the time the rules



were obeyed and all the t's were crossed, so to speak. We had 7 people working our polling site. Darrel was the election judge. Freda Burks was the alternate judge. She was a school teacher and then school librarian for 48 years. She was very efficient and handled the people very well. The clerks were Pat Jackson, a friend of Freda's. She was a nurse and she was a pleasure to work alongside. Becky Shelton took turns on the sign in sheet and greeting voters as did Shannon McCabe until 5pm when Krisha Collins took over for her. Joshua and I mostly did the check in with the voter books.

# Election Day

## November 4, 2004



John Quincy Adams's wise axiom that states "Duty is ours, results are Gods'.

### It was a long long day, but not just for our family, for our Nation

About 440 voters voted in our precinct on election day. Which was a pretty steady flow of people. There were a few times when it was a little slow and a few times when it was really busy. Our first voter got there at 6:30 am though we did not open until 7 am. But we had no voters waiting when we were ready to close the doors at 7pm. We had 6 voters who had to vote provisionally and only one who decided to get angry and make a big scene. We only had one voter who had requested a mail in ballot and then showed up to vote without his ballot, so he had to go home and get it and then we cancelled that ballot and he was able to vote. We had two voters who

had to have assistance in Spanish and one who needed assistance from a spouse and thus he had to take an oath to not tell her how to vote.

Joshua was a wealth of knowledge as we had many, I'd say around 100 if not more, who were at the wrong precinct and needed to know where to go. The day before the election, Joshua had looked up every polling place and put them on a google map and then he visited all the ones in our precinct to pray over them and thus he knew where they were and was able to give great directions.

Jonny and Sarah did a great job at home taking care of the younger kids. Sarah even put them all to bed before we got home.





# Life Banquet

Grace House and Options Clinic

Joshua, Jonny and Sarah volunteered at the Grace House/Options Clinic Life Banquet. They waited on the tables. Darrel and I were looking forward to attending the banquet, but our babysitter got sick. I have gone to too many things by myself this year and did not want to go without Darrel and he also did not want to go by himself. So we stayed home together and took care of the little kiddos. We will still donate to the Life centers even though we were unable to go to the fund raiser. Sarah brought home one of the centerpieces and it was a lovely bouquet of flowers. Hannah was sure they were for her and of course we let her believe they were.

**Legacy Graphics** Connie Skidmore of Legacy Graphics took pictures of the puppet team and here are a couple of the pictures of my kids with their puppet friends. We had a bake sale at church today. Sarah made 4 garlic cheese rolls.

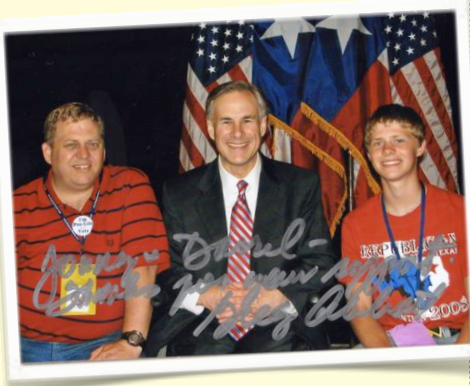


# Volcano! Run!!!!

**Venus** We are studying Venus and thus we had to study volcanos since Venus is covered in volcanos. The little ones made a volcano out of plater of paris and sand on top of a plastic frame. Then we painted it and the next day as we were just about to set it off, Sarah came home from a baby sitting job with the three little boys she baby sits: Johnny, Jake and Austin. So they stayed while we set it off. Afterward we cleaned it all up and planned to set it off again when we get some new vinegar and new baking soda.



*Stephen was the scientist who was allowed to set off the volcano this first time it was set off. Johnny is holding his nose because it really did stick... vinegar was an active ingredient.*



*Darrel and Jonny at the Republican State Convention with Greg Abbot. We just got the picture in the mail. so that is why I am adding it now.*



# Hemmed in Prayer

I enjoyed spending a little time praying for little Tanner James who is scheduled to be born in mid-December to my friends, Sean and Mallie. It is always a joy to me to hem the things I make in prayer. I pray for different aspects of the child's life as I put together the different little things that I make for him/her. During the middle of this project, my large embroidery hoop broke! So that brought up a whole new group of things to pray for. (bummer is I have a pile of things that need to be embroidered. )This is the big gift. They are doing his room in cowboy and I just fell in love with this little quilt. I like the way it came out with the cute pocket from some old jeans. Then I added a couple of burp pads to match with little pockets from some the kids old jeans. If you were too look closely you could tell when my embroidery hoop broke as one of the names on the pocket of a burp pad is not perfect. I had to hold it together as it did the stitching.



# Perfect Weather

**Azle Park** Jordan and Stephen went to a birthday party for a couple of our friends; Christina and Carly Lowrance. So while they were at the party we took the little ones to the park. It was a wonderful crisp cool Fall day. Sarah was not with us because she was babysitting



*Daniel loved sliding with big brother, Jonny. It was a very dry day and thus there was lots of static electricity. It was funny to see Daniel's hair sticking straight up each time he came off the slide.*





# Art Class

Learning Like The Masters

We took an art class today with a lady named Alyce Hendrickson. She has a one room school house out in Agnes. She was very nice and the children enjoyed working with her. Stephen lost interest about 30 minutes short of the end of the two hour class, but he was still very still and obedient. I could just tell he had enough and was ready to play. But his painting turned out wonderful. (He also had a bit of a cold that day) They hope to hold these classes with different mediums each month. They are a little bit pricy so we will have to play it month by month. I was really hoping Sarah would want to do it, but she is not showing much interest. I think it is because it is front of other people.



# Memphis Ryder

Slaton, Texas November 22-25

We went down to Slaton to meet my new great nephew. He was born while Darrel was in Israel and we had not been able to go down and meet him until now. He is absolutely adorable! He has dark olive colored skin and brown eyes and dark brown hair. He is quiet the little talker and he is such a good baby. He just did not ever fuss. When you talked to him he would light and and most of the time he was ready to talk back to you. Together with his sister, Mackinzie, his mom, Jennifer Fulgham and daddy, Steven made a wonderful little family.

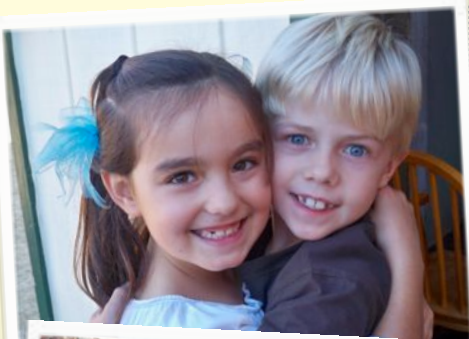




# Slaton

Short visit, but full of love

We had a nice but very short trip to Slaton. We went down on Saturday after Jonny's baseball practice so we did not leave here until 3pm. WE got there just in time to watch Tech get beat up in a football game against Oklahoma. It was very sad! Sunday we spent the day visiting with family. Jonny went to the park with Papa to shake the pecan trees and pick up the pecans. We got several bags full! Later I went by to see Jennifer's new house. It is so nice. They are very blessed. We spent time talking and playing with the kids and the new baby. All the kids have grown. Taylor (7) is as tall as Jordan (10) and Mackinzie (6) is as tall as Stephen who will be 8 in less than one week. Monday we visited for a while and they worked while we played with the baby. We came home on Tuesday.





# Thanksgiving

November 27, 2008

We went to Lucas to David and Michelle's house for thanksgiving. Grandmother and Granddad and Aunt Shelby were there also. They made an absolutely wonderful meal with all the traditional favorites and a few extras. We played a little cards, the guys played guitars together, played pool, ping pong and the younger ones had a great time outside in the beautiful weather that the Lord so graciously provided. We left our house about 8:30 am and got home around 12:30 am. It was a long day but full of family and that is a good thing.

Below are a few pictures of the trees I see outside the windows of my house. They are beautiful and bursting with fall colors right now. I feel like when I open the blinds I have beautiful God painted pictures on my walls.





# Celebrate!

## We are Blessed

Eight years ago the Lord blessed us with our 5th child, Stephen Andrew Russell. That pregnancy and delivery were such a work of art by the Lord God Almighty! Long story short.... Before I conceived we had found a lump about the size of an almond in my throat and had a biopsy and found it to be benign. As the pregnancy progressed the tumor began to grow and by 6 months it was making it hard to breath and swallow. They did another biopsy but they wanted to get the whole thing out of there because they



found it to be a cold tumor which means it is the kind that can be cancerous or precancerous. So

at 7 months pregnant, we went through surgery to remove what they thought was perhaps a ping pong ball sized tumor off my thyroid. I opted to go into surgery without any drugs to numb the entry process, so they wheeled me into the surgery room and then they prepared everything and then they put me under and everything went well. Though the ping pong ball sized lump turned out to be the size of a baseball. But it was benign. I spent one night in the hospital and then came home with instructions not to lift anything heavier than 5 pounds. Funny

since I was 7 months pregnant and thus had more than 5 pounds



of baby that I carried everywhere. I carried Stephen one week past term and then they induced and though the labor was intense, when it came time to push and all the doctors were there watching to make sure I did not bust the stitches in my neck, it took basically one cough and he was out. Healthy and beautiful. Since the Lord had actually given us his name many years earlier when Jonny was only 6 weeks old, we were happy to meet the little guy that we had waited 8 years to meet.

# Stephen Andrew Russell

Turns Eight Years old... November 29, 2008



*Happy Birthday, Stephen Andrew Russell*

## Who you are and who you will become

Stephen means crowned one or crown. Stephen was of course the first Christian martyr in the Bible. To us it means one who will stand strong for his faith even in tough circumstances. We know that in this life you will face trials (stones) but we know that you will stand resolute in your belief and fervor for the Lord. Acts 6 describes Stephen as a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, it also describes him as a man full of God's grace and power who did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. And even further into the chapter it says that all who looked intently at Stephen saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Another thing that

stands out to me about the Biblical Stephen is that while they were stoning him he prayed "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. Here I see the forgiving and compassionate heart of Stephen who did not hold the people who were actually stoning him against them. I also see the great compassion of the Lord, as he caused Stephen to fall asleep and thus spared him the continued pain of the stoning. I pray our Stephen has this same forgiving and compassionate spirit about him.

**Andrew** of the Bible was the first of the 12 disciples chosen by Jesus. He and his brother Simon called Peter were fishermen and were fishing on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus told them to



# Stephen Andrew

*Year 8*

throw down their nets and follow Him. As you follow Stephen's actions in the gospels you will see that he was eager to tell others that they had found the messiah, he proclaimed the coming of the messiah to others. Andrew means manly and courageous. Stephen Andrew is our little knight. He is courageous and he is becoming a young man.

Thoughts on how Stephen has grown this year. For his 7th birthday Stephen wanted army men and legos. For his 8th birthday he wanted army men and legos. On his 7th birthday his favorite color was just changing from orange to red, now on his 8th birthday his favorite color is firmly red. This year he played baseball and soccer. Right now is basketball season but he is not very interested, he would rather play on the playground. He had at least one really black eye, but no stitches this year. He had dental surgery. He climbed more than half way up a huge rock wall and he is one of the best tree climbers I know.

## Stephen's birthday celebration



## A Prayer of Blessing for Stephen

**Hebrew** Ye'verech'echa Adonoy ve'yish'merecha. Ya'ir Adonoy panav eilecha viy-chuneka. Yisa Adonoy panav eilecha, ve'yasim lecha shalom.

**English** May God bless you and watch over you. May God shine His face toward you and show you favor. May God be favorably disposed toward you and grant you peace.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be on your heart. You shall teach them to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign upon your arm, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates. (taken from Deut. 6:4-9, 11:13-21, Numbers 15:37-41)



*Top Picture: Stephen at 2 years*

*Bottom Picture: Stephen at 7 years, 11 months*





A few pictures of Stephen over the years.



# Casting Crowns Concert

## Christmas Concert

**I shall not envy  
what my children  
were able to do.....  
Maybe if I say it  
enough times it  
will become  
truth.**

Joshua and Sarah took two friends; Taylor Huse and Shelby Hewitt to a Christmas Concert featuring Casting Crowns and Denver and the Mile High Orchestra. It was over at the Nokia Theater and they had a wonderful time.



*Flag football with a group of long time friends, most of them we knew from WACHE.*

Friends are a blessing.

