

“Praise to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.”
(Luke 1:68)

We hope that this special season, when we commemorate our dear Lord's birth, is a time of renewed wonder at the gift God gave.

Either we are getting older or we had a lot of fun this year (or both ☺), because time just flew by way too fast in 2008. Perhaps the written collage that follows will give you a little glimpse into the highlights for each one of us.

Starting with the oldest...Barak

Well, this year was a special one since Victoria and I were able to celebrate 20 years of marriage in August. We were also able to celebrate Kayla's 15th birthday and Darren's 17th this year!

Regarding work, which produces an income for the family to enjoy life, I'm still employed by the Department of Defense, specifically the Air Force. My current responsibilities have me managing a \$265 million multi-year project to establish depot repair capabilities for the Global Hawk system. The Global Hawk is an unmanned air reconnaissance system utilized by both the Air Force and Navy. As a part of my job responsibilities I traveled to California, Georgia, Virginia, Indiana, Utah and Oklahoma over the course of the year.

Over to Victoria...

The word that most accurately describes my year is *milestones*. I reached a couple of big ones: 1. Twenty years of marriage adventure with Barak (am I glad he still puts up with me! ☺); 2. Sending Darren out as a graduate from Kitty Hawk Academy (i.e. high school home school). It seems like it was just yesterday that Barak and I said, “I do”, and all of a sudden, we've got a son in college! I shall pay a little bit more attention to the speedy passage of time and really savor the last couple of years with Kayla at home.

I continue to provide physical therapy evaluations and treatments on an as-needed basis at extended care facilities in the area. My favorite months at work this year were when Kayla worked as my rehab tech. It warms a PT Mama's heart when the offspring seems interested in the same field. Our 30-minute drives to and from work flew by with readings about Narnians and Hobbits and such, and many conversations I will cherish for years to come.

In June, I was able to go back to Paraguay to help Mom with some medical issues. The two weeks went by way too fast, but were very productive from a clinical perspective. Also, it was so good to see my brothers and their families again, as well as a couple of my dearest friends.

Throughout the year, I had the privilege of meeting with and mentoring a few women. The Lord also provided like-minded friends to come along on this journey with Him. What a gift it is to have people in our lives through which God shapes and sharpens us. Indeed, he is faithful and will complete the good work he has begun in each and every one of us.

Here's Darren...

It's been a busy year, but an exciting one. I've been working at Walgreen's and I was mowing lawns until old man winter decided to drop by for a while. I finally made Eagle rank in Boy Scouts, thanks to all the people who helped me along the way and a good kick in the rear by my parents – I needed it.

The most exciting and most stressful occurrence this year has been college. I'm studying Political Science (Poly-Sci in college lingo) at Sinclair Community College. There is so much to learn; book knowledge and people knowledge if you know what I mean.

God's biggest blessing this year has been the development of some outstanding friendships. We encourage each other, study the Bible together, and even give figurative slaps in the face sometimes, all in love of course. I thank God often for these people.

I look forward to seeing what happens in the next year, and I hope you do as well.

Hey, it's Kayla...

I hope you are doing well and that as your year comes to a close you can see how God has worked in your life the past twelve months. I know for me when I glance back at where I've been, where I am now, and how far I've come, I can see that through the highs and through the lows God has never abandoned me. He has blessed me so much.

The most exciting month for me was August. I got a job for three months at a nursing home slash rehab facility as the rehab tech. I'm feeling a pull toward the medical field, so the experience this job provided is like gold.

Then, at the tail end of August, my sophomore year of high school started up. I'm still home schooled, and I've started taking some CLEP tests for dual credit.

Another exciting thing this year has been seeing friendships form and grow in my life. God has surrounded me with a group of friends who are pursuing him strongly. I'm so thankful.

The most lasting and impacting thing that has happened this year has been the complex journey I've taken with God. He's brought me a long way. I can't help but get excited to know that it will never, ever end.

Have a joy-filled Christmas and New Year.

Well, there you go... a quick collage of our family and individual lives throughout 2008.

Blessings to you and yours,

Barak, Victoria, Darren and Kayla

