

RUSSELL NEWS

JANUARY 2008

DARREL AND LEANN RUSSELL FAMILY

ISSUE ONE



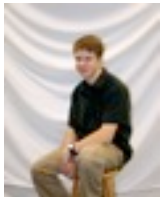
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
JEREMIAH 29:11

Holiday Happenings

Joshua's Family Graduation Reception

We held a family graduation celebration for Joshua on December 28th in Lubbock. We held it at a friend's church and both sides of the family were invited. We served hours snacks and punch, soda, coffee, etc.

Family in Attendance:



My oldest brother, Richard. My sister, Loy with her husband, Chip, their son, Jeremy (from California), their daughter, Jennifer and granddaughter, MacKinzie and their son, William.

My brother David and wife, Cindy and son Douglas. My brother, John Mark, wife, Nicole and daughters: Taelor and

Nicole. My mother and father (Jim and Paula) were all there. My brother James had to leave to go back to New Mexico and my brother Michael were not able to attend.

Darrel's parents: John and Loetta, Darrel's older sister: Shelby, his twin brother David and his wife Michelle and children: Danica and Nicky and Darrel's younger sister: Sherry and husband, Fred with their children: Thomas, Sammy and Joe were all able to attend.

Slide Show We had a slide show of Joshua with pictures of him growing up. Some pictures of him doing school, and some of him working. We had other pictures of him going on a computer while people were fellowshipping.

Prayers and Blessings We had a time of prayer where Darrel and I and Joshua's grandparents all laid hands on Joshua and prayed for him and for his

Numbers 6:24

*"The LORD bless you,
and keep you; the LORD make his
face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you,
and give you peace."*

future. We had a book for all in attendance to sign and to write blessings to Joshua. We will use the same book when we have his more formal graduation in the Spring.



Thank you to Covenant Life Fellowship for the use of their church.

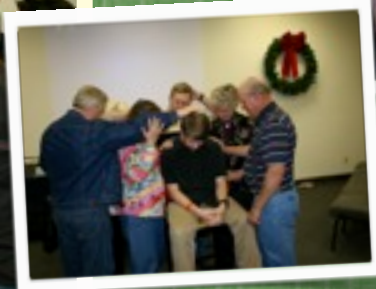


Joshua 1:7

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey...; do not turn from it to the right or to the left that you may be successful wherever you go.



Family Blessing



*May the Lord
bless you and
keep you and
shine His face
upon you!*

Family lays hands on Joshua

Dad, Mom, Grandfather, Grandmother, Papa and Nana

Along with a host of Aunts, Uncles, cousins, brothers, and sisters all took some time to corporately pray for Joshua and his future.

I want to be a Legacy

I don't mind if you've got something nice to say about me. And I enjoy an accolade like the rest.

You could take my picture and hang it in a gallery of all who's who and so-n-so's



that used to be the best at such'n'such ... it wouldn't matter much.

I won't lie, it feels alright to see your name in lights. We all need an 'Atta boy' or 'Atta girl'. But in the end I'd like to hang my hat on more besides the temporary trappings of this world

I want to leave a legacy.
How will they remember me?
Did I choose to love? Did I point to You enough to make a mark on things?

I want to leave an offering.
A child of mercy and grace who blessed your name unapologetically
And leave that kind of legacy

I don't have to look too far or too long awhile to make a lengthy list of all that I enjoy. It's an accumulating trinket and a treasure pile where moth and rust, thieves and such will soon enough destroy.

Not well traveled, not well read, not well-to-do or well bred.
Just want to hear instead, "Well Done" good and faithful one...

Just want to hear instead,
"Well Done" good and
faithful one.....

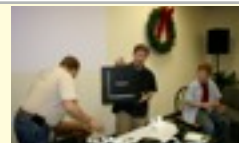
.....

Words of Praise and Blessing

We also had a time where family members could come up and 'roast' Joshua. They told stories of dirty diapers and other early experiences. And they also told how Joshua has inspired them to excel. How he has been an example of



The Russell and Sadler family joined together and bought him a top notch Mac laptop computer.



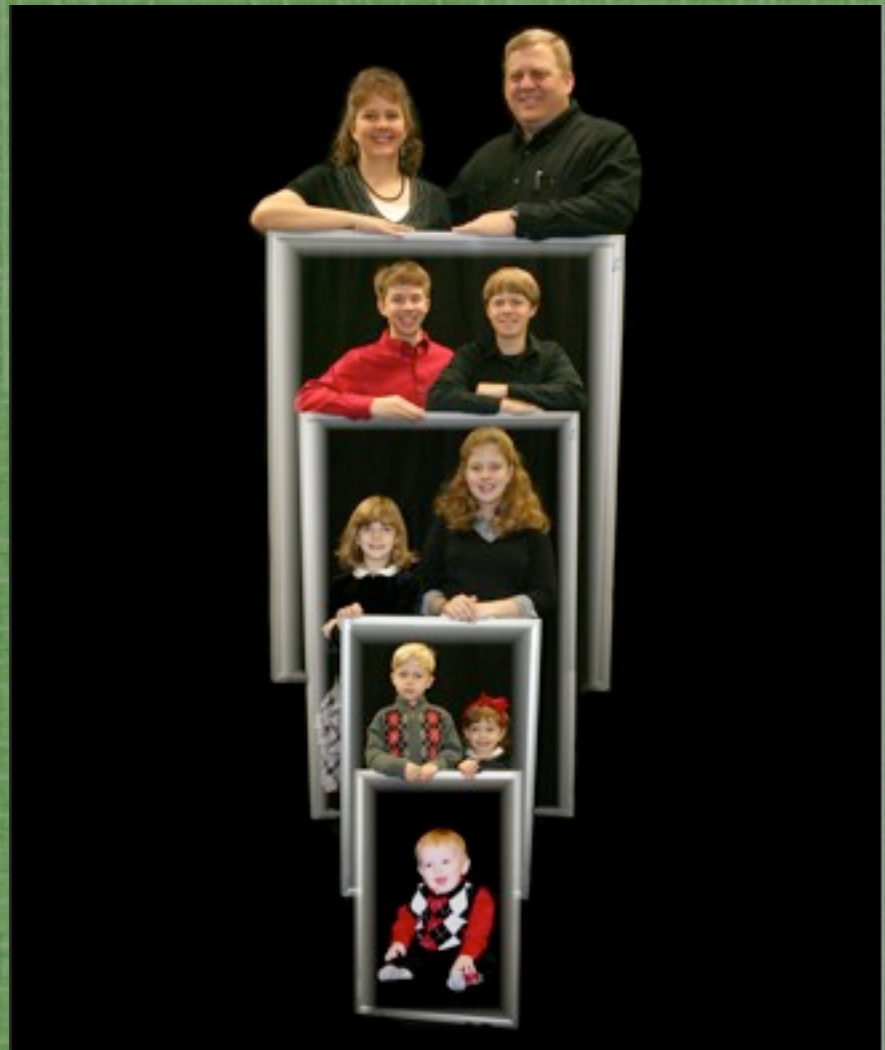
living a life honoring to the Lord even though he was younger than them. Joshua said he felt very humbled and unworthy of their praise.

Darrel's song to Joshua is by Danny Oertli and it is called: I thought you should know.

It started on the day you were born, I wanted you to have everything. But now it seems my conscience is torn between what I desire and what I believe. What kind of man would I be if I didn't pray for you, what my father prayed for me. So I pray with all my heart that you would be broken and in brokenness find God. And I pray that you will fall and in falling down you'll stand up to rise above it all. I pray that God would break you as you grow. I thought you should know. As you walk down your winding road, faith and hope will go a long way. And you'll learn all you need to know. That life is hard but love remains. I wish you nothing but the best. So I'm asking God to put you to the test.

Wish I had some way to put the music on here, it is such a pretty song and wow the words are powerful.

The Darrel and LeAnn Russell Family



Family pictures. Other than the ones we have done at home, this is the first one we have had made by someone outside of the family since Joshua was an infant.

Photo Magic Connie Skidmore of Legacy Graphics took our picture. She is a friend from church and she actually took our picture in front of a puppet stage put up in the church nursery with sheets for the back drop. She is gifted. I found a picture where all were smiling except for Sarah and Jordan and another where Sarah was smiling and another where Jordan was smiling. Connie cropped the pictures and put them together and made a picture with everyone smiling.

Picture within picture within picture. Connie also made the picture above. She took pictures of each pair holding an empty dry erase board, she then did her magic and made the picture above where it looks like we are hold pictures of others holding pictures of others holding pictures. So cool.

We had some graduation pictures done of Joshua, but I think I will have some more made closer to his public graduation ceremony in May.

Russell Kids

Jordan Gabrielle

Jordan asked me the other day how to spell her middle name. She said Mom, how do you spell Gabriella? I said baby your middle name is Gabrielle, she insisted it was

Gabriella. Sarah has called her Gabriella since she was a baby. And so she really thinks that is her name.



She still loves zebras and her favorite colors are blue first then yellow.

Stephen Andrew

This month we studied the Alamo and Stephen loved it. Though he didn't know how to act when he found out that Davy Crockett was killed.



For days his world revolved around reading Alamo books, playing Alamo games and talking about the Alamo. We went to Casa Manana's production of the Alamo and he loved it. He built a scale replica of the Alamo out of little bitty bricks and mortar. That was time consuming yet very fun. He especially enjoyed carrying the bricks to the worksite with his hot wheels truck. He also reenacted the Alamo battle at least a hundred time with his Alamo army men.

Da da, Bu bu, Ma ma, da da, Bu bu bu.....



Daniel Josiah turned 9 months on December 28th.

Babbling and moving

Daniel is on the move. He can crawl anywhere he wants and mostly what he wants is to move to get to a place where he can stand up. I don't think it will be too long before he is walking a little. He also babbles a lot. He seems to know what dada and Mama mean and sometimes he says ni ni like he is saying night night. But I don't think he knows he is doing it when it is time for him to go to sleep.

Daniel Josiah turned 10 months on January 28th. At ten months, Daniel has 3 teeth, two on bottom and one on top and trust me he knows how to bite.... hard! He enjoys crawling around and pulling up to anything and everything. He has let go and stood for a few seconds at a time and he has walked around objects, like the coffee table. He

just recently stayed in the nursery at church for the first time. He really likes playing with the toys and the other children until he notices that no one from his family is there and then it takes him all of 3 seconds to loose control. But there is always a sibling or parent close by. Sarah enjoys working in the nursery on Wednesday nights. She likes sitting in the floor and having all the babies crawling all over her.



Darrel went to Israel on the 10th of January and came home on the 31st. Although other trips have been longer, this by seemed like the longest trip, both for him and for all of us.

We are blessed to talk on the phone often, send and receive emails and chat via icht on the computer, but we still miss him beyond measure.

Star in the making! Or is that 7 stars in the making!

Premier

We went to the 'premier' of the movie that the kids were in with our homeschool group. Joshua was one of the two main characters. Jonny had a couple of small parts including the bottom part of a giant amazon person and an indiana Jones type character. Jordan had a 'shot' in the movie.... literally, her part was to take a toy shot gun, walk onto the scene, wave at Joshua and the other main character, look up, aim and shoot the gun, then turn and wave goodbye to Joshua. Then Joshua explained that he had promised her a 'shot' in the movie. :) Stephen was the top/

face of an amazon giant person.

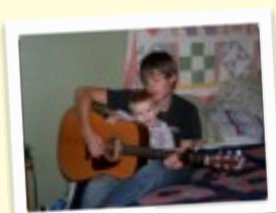
Movie and Popcorn

We all enjoyed the movie 'premier'. The kids could dress up, red tie or they could dress up as a movie character. Joshua and Jonny dressed up as themselves from the movie. Jordan, Hannah and Daniel dressed up red tie. Daniel was decked out in his tux. He was adorable.

We have a copy of the movie and it is fun to watch it. It was very neat to watch the parts become a whole. The writer, director, etc was Brian DeWeese a homeschool father. This is his fourth movie to make using local homeschoolers, he has a lot of fun doing it and we had a lot of fun participating in it.



As you can imagine there is often a lot of drama living in our family. Hannah is a little ham at home loves to sing and dance and act for us.



Bonding... Anytime Jonny has Daniel he plays the guitar for him and with him. Joshua and Hannah have a special bond. She calls him her Josh-e-a

Israel

3 + Weeks

Darrel spent just over 3 weeks in Israel this month. He left on the 10th and came home on February 1st. He did not have a very good trip this time. They lost his luggage on the way over, though they found it in a couple of days. He forgot something here so he had me overnight it via Fed Ex for \$207.76 and it took him 10 days to get it! And when he did get it they made him pay an additional \$60.00 for customs tax! He had to stay an extra day because something that a company sent them did not come in on time so he had to go and fight with customs to release it and then he had to get it working once they got it in country. That on top of working 90 - 105 hours per week and he was more than ready to come home!

Walking in Transfer

Russell Puppet Productions make their debut.

EMACHE Chili Supper

We had just at one week to get ready to do a puppet skit for the EMACHE Chili Supper. (EMACHE is a local homeschool group.) We were asked to do a 30 minute set. So Sarah wrote the skit and I edited it. We picked songs and came up with the choreography. The DeWeese family graciously offered to help us as we did not have enough people to make it happen. Jonny and Sarah were the main puppets and Sarah was the only person in the skit. Joshua did a couple of speaking parts with different puppets, Jordan helped with some of the choreography during one of the songs. The DeWeeses were 4 puppets doing background singing and props. They were great! The skit used songs by Phil Joel, Veggie Tales and an Eugene Sings song. Here is a small piece of it.....

A New Testament Skit

Modd- Hi Todd, what are you doing here?

Todd- Oh nothing. So how was the homeschool fellowship last night?

Modd- It was ok. And Todd?

Todd- Yeah!

Modd- I've got a question!

Todd- What?

Modd- Last night they said that the book that we should be reading has a song to go with it.

Todd- And?

Modd- And I have a book right here and there is not a song that goes with it.

Todd- really what book is it?

Modd- Here look.

Todd- Cool " KIDS SUDOKU FOR DUMMIES." What are you trying to say about me?

Modd- (giggles) it doesn't have a song that goes with it.

Todd- I think they were talking about the Bible

Modd- oh, I've read some of that book, but it is really hard to find where you are with all the different books crammed into it.

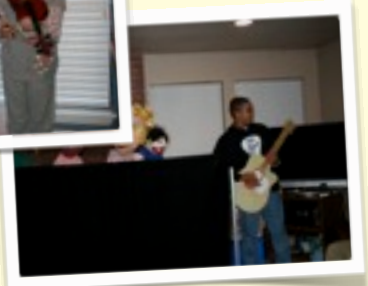
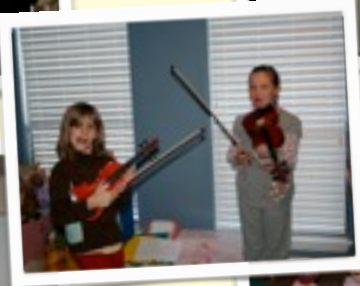
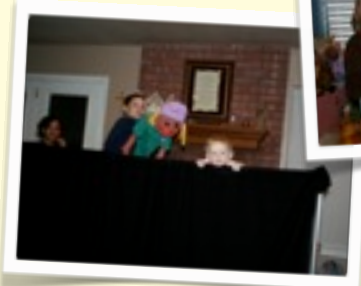
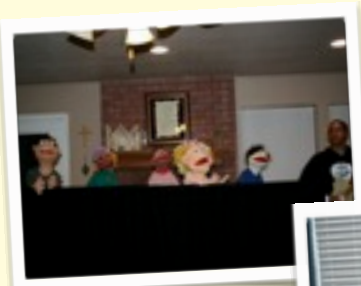
Todd- ok. Do you want to learn about the New, or the Old Testament?

Modd- Ummmmmm the new!

Todd- there is a song that goes with that.

Modd- oh yeah! What kind of song?

Todd- Hit it Guys.....



Really it went very well for our first public production and for only having one week from start to finish. Biggest bummer was that Daddy was out of town for the whole process!