

Happy April Fools Day

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Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught.

Colossians 2:7
NLT

A ridiculously belated Merry Christmas and a more timely happy April Fools Day! Despite the heading above I promise that the information contained herein is not influenced by the spirit of the holiday.

We have had quite the wild year preparing to move, putting our house on the market, moving, and when I thought I was done, settling into our new home. Previously, I would have just referred to this whole process as “moving” but with four kiddos, including one very mobile and not-yet-obedient toddler, listing the steps separately seems to give the events more appropriate weight. Despite the insanity God was really with us in the process. Our house sold in less than a week with multiple offers, and the buyers agreed to let us rent back for 60 days while we hunted for a new home. There were NO homes on the market within our elementary school’s boundaries that even approached meeting our “list” for weeks after ours sold and we began to wonder if the kids would need to change schools. Days before the deadline, a fully remodeled home at the end of a cul-de-sac with a view Andrew had prayed for on a whim but not really ever expected came on the market. We miraculously escaped a multiple offers situation which would have put the home out of reach and were able to move on November 29, just in time for the Christmas madness to begin. If I listed all the ways God worked I wouldn’t



have room for anything else, but we regularly marvel as we look out our bedroom window to the Cascade Mountains at God’s attention to detail. I can tell you that I did not earn His favor with my delighted patience. My conduct was far from perfect. I doubted, lost my temper, and would have, in impatience, jumped at a house not nearly as well suited to our family had He allowed one to be on the market. God is good even when I am not (read Ps. 73:21-28 if you are so inclined). Praise God!

On to smaller and cuter things. How about alphabetically this year which puts one-and-a-half-year-old Gracie first. She is full of spunk, but not a tom boy. She loves purses, shoes, dressing up dolls and smiling at herself in the mirror. I once took her into a purse store without thinking and thought I’d never get her out! She was sooooo... excited. She even talks grandma into giving her some lipstick from time to time (Ahhhhh!!!!!!). She loves to give and receive “ugs” (hugs, not fuzzy boots), roar like a lion, and holds great power over her brothers. The screams of a bossy little girl have always sent my boys running for home faster than any other irritant. They can handle boys who push and kids who can’t share, but not the screaming! It took no time for Grace to discover this weakness and use it to her full advantage. When Grace screeches they are like Superman in the presence of Kryptonite and she almost always gets what she want. She has earned the nicknames “bossy boots” and “the dictator” while wielding this force. I remind her brothers to stay strong, and just say no,



but we have yet to inoculate them to her super powers.

Isaiah is 7 this year and in the first grade. He is sweet and thoughtful, loves to read, and finds it is a full time job to keep all his friends happy which is very important to his people-pleaser little self. I was recently discussing playdate options with him and he proceeded to explained to me how he had prioritized 3 “diplomatic mission” playdates above his next playdate with the little boy he enjoys the most so as to maintain the delicate balance of first grade egos (obviously my wording, not his). Good grief! He also loves to laugh and would be the class clown if he didn’t find getting in trouble at school to be the most horrifying thing he can imagine. He can’t handle books or movies where someone is breaking the rules and rebuke is a potential possibility. On the other hand, the “dark side” doesn’t scare him in the least.

Matthew, our 10 year old, starts Jr. High next year and is officially a ‘tween’. I am starting to see the benefits of that black-and-white, my-way-or-the-highway nature I’ve been telling you about for years. It is a fantastic weapon against peer pressure. Yeah!!! He loves rock climbing and takes lessons at a local climbing gym. He seems to have absolutely no fear of heights (every mom’s dream), a will of steel, and a perfect climber’s body which makes him a marvel to watch. He receives high praise from his coaches and the only thing holding him back from competing (yup, there is competitive rock climbing) is his parents’ inability to give his hobby any more of the family’s time. Matthew is still best at math and finds art to be torturous. He is warming up a bit to writing but finds punctuation, particularly periods to be “rude.” Jr High should be fun!

Last, is 5-year-old Zachary. Our “little middle” loves preschool, delights in impressing his big brothers’ friends, and thinks he’s ready for middle school. I see us clutching tightly to the reins with this one, straining to holding him back as he aims to keep up with his big brothers. Zach and Isaiah both enjoy soccer and Zach LOVES to come up with a game Isaiah will enjoy so he can

have his big brother’s company. He is not nearly as excited about video games as his big brothers, but prefers to watch and play heroes from Batman to Star Wars and everything in between. Zach is full of great comments on life as you will find in the “Quotes” section to the right. This is what I will tell him when he complains his paragraph is shorter than his brothers.

As for Andrew and I, we are as busy as you think we are having read the letter to this point, but are very happy with the life God has given us. Andrew has changed positions yet again at Microsoft and is in the Office 365 division. If you don’t know what that is you probably will soon. He enjoys the challenge and business of his new position and tells me so almost daily. This is a big answer to pray as his last position was a real struggle.

I am still working at least a trickle as a nurse in addition to my mommy gig. I am enjoying settling our family into our new place, and continuing to be humbled, blessed and, well, schooled by my parenting job.

Well, I guess it won’t be long before you hear from us again year. We loved reading all your letters and seeing your beautiful families this Christmas.

Lots of Love,

The Davids

Top David Boy Quotes of 2012-13

1. Zach turned a Batman action figure’s head backwards and Uncle Tim told him that owls do the same. He responded, "Err, yeah, I know... 'cause they're neck-turnal."

2. Me: Sesame Street and The Muppets were both created by the same guy. Zachary: Oh, yeah. Kermit.

3. Isaiah : “Mommy, is Esther a real story?” Me: "Yes." I: "No, I mean is it a story Jesus is telling because he wants us to learn something or did it really happen?" Me: "Really happened." I: "Was there really a man who would chase you around with a feather and tickle you forever?"

The dangers of Veggie Tales.

4. Listening to a rock-style Christian song Zach seemed to like I asked "Is this the kind of music you like?" He replied, "Well, I like super hero music, but...Jesus is a super hero. He's the GREATEST super hero of them ALL!"

5. Zachary was watching a VHS which he apparently hasn’t done much. In response to nagging, I said "Zachary be patient. It needs to rewind first" a couple of times. He finally said, "Mommy WHAT are you talking about?" Oh yeah. Rewind with wait time is a totally foreign concept to a modern 5-year-old.

6. Before heading out I tend to send the kids to the car and spend a bit more time than I should getting there myself. On one occasion, as I sent him to the car Zachary walked up to me with his best loving-yet-firm parental face on and said "Mommy, we are leaving for the pool in 5 minutes. You need to make sure you are ready on time, Ok?"

