

Watts News

Summer 2007

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News from Monta No news this time

Virginia's Family

I am busy working in the yard, with volunteer work in the landscaped area at church and helping low income people get prescription drugs directly from the pharmaceutical companies at no charge. Also enrolling people who are age 65 this year in Medicare prescription drug plans.

All of us here enjoyed celebrating Father's Day at Barbara and Dennis's. Dennis works part time at a car auction company and the auction is held once a week. He picks up and delivers cars to outlying areas. He is having problems with the total shoulder replacement he had in January and after recent evaluation his surgeon has opted to do an exploratory surgery on July 2. Both he and Barbara recently repainted Jordyn's bedroom - it is really pretty. They did TJ's bedroom in November. Barbara will probably continue her volunteer work at school during Jordyn's 1st grade year once a week.

Roger just returned from a one week mission trip to Kentucky. He, his good friend Laura, a 15 year old girl and a 15 year old boy were volunteers from their church for the Appalachia Service Project and were assigned to work on one home in a poverty stricken county in Kentucky, the nearest town is Pineville. They worked on a 60 year old home with no foundation and lots of dry rot. They took up 8 layers off the kitchen floor and poured cement to shore up and level underneath the kitchen floor for a 48 year old lady who was overjoyed to have someone come to help make her home warmer, safer and dryer. Four other teams worked in the same area. Other teams will follow up during the summer. Last year over 13,000 volunteers touched countless lives as they repaired homes. Roger's team had good accommodations in a college dorm and were served good meals. The country was beautiful and the weather was good during their stay. Roger says it was the hardest work he ever loved! Their church sponsored 'fund raisers' and also solicited donations for this trip and have enough money left over to send another team next summer!

Aloha from the Jensens: Kenneth, Shannon, TJ and Jordyn got to spend 7 wonderful days in Hawaii. It was our first family vacation and had a great time. We stayed on the island of Oahu. TJ learned to snorkel and swam with the stingrays. Jordyn took hula lessons and looked so cute in her grass skirt. We went to Pearl Harbor and walked on the Arizona Memorial and also toured the USS Missouri. We also went to the Polynesian Cultural Center. It was a great trip for us and the kids. They enjoyed their first plane ride. Now we are all home and back to our normal lives, but will have great memories.

Blessings to all. Virginia

Richard's Family:

This summer finds Sharon now working in inpatient recovery (same job) in a different hospital. The patient census is much lower there and the pay is greater. Can't beat that! The driving distance is about the same as to the previous hospital. Off-duty hours find her busier than ever working in her back yard. She and Mom have vegetable and flower gardens that they continue to expand and tend to. Upcoming plans include an herb garden, a low deck that a friend will build, and a block retaining wall and a walkway winding through the back yard. Sharon appointed me her "decorator," so I occasionally do that sort of thing on the inside. Cecil helps with chores that require more muscle.

They went to Lathrop, Missouri (to see Jeremy) and across the border to Atchison, Kansas (to see Jason and family) in early May. Jason, Kristy and Jaden moved a while back from semi-rural Missouri one mile away into Atchison. Little Jaden Grace is 13 months old (as I write this). She's been walking good for a few months now, and of course is just precious. She had a big, outdoor birthday party when Mom and Sharon were at her house. They have a large, fenced back yard and a big vegetable garden.

Jeremy still lives in an apartment and enjoys spending time with girlfriend Jenny and her toddler son Kyler. Jenny works as a pharmacy technician. The boys are waiting to find out about possibly being sent to Afghanistan or Iraq.

Cecil's brother Doug has served one tour in Iraq, helped with Katrina relief efforts, and worked with guarding the US/Mexico border. He's now undergoing training to go back to Iraq as a military police. He's hardly had time to work at a regular job (he's Army National Guard). He tried to retire recently, but there's a freeze on retirements, so that wasn't allowed.

The mail-sorting operation in Easley SC was transferred to Greenville's downtown post office, and Cecil went with it. (Sharon, Cecil and I all work in downtown Greenville now!). His hours are 12:30 pm (noon-thirty) until 9:00 pm (or whenever), Their overtime hours are mandatory, unlike mine. My job is a legal assistant "working up" files in an appeals level Social Security office in downtown Greenville. We have a very large backlog, as so many of us "baby boomers" have become disabled (or think they are). They are beginning to increase the amount of overtime allotted, which will increase my fatigue, as well as the paycheck.

Not long ago, Cecil painted our guest room and hall a soft green. Now he's painting our living room tan. We have future painting plans for the kitchen and laundry room. Poor Cecil--he hates painting, but does it anyway. Sharon must have inspired us because of all the painting she's done in her house. She only has one room to go (sewing/computer room) and we have two! We plan to clean and re-stain our deck & porches and other fixin' up projects.

Billy still works at the grocery store. He's about to turn 31 (end of June). He's finding that his metabolism is changing; that caught him by surprise.

Gailia, Brandt and Amber: Cecil's and my Sunday School class has you on our "permanent" prayer list. We are in a large class with quite a few members who have grown missionary children. This morning I was asked to share what's going on with your ministry. I shared what I knew from the last newsletter that Amber wrote in. Are your teaching efforts in a university? How's the baseball going? Keep us posted so we can pray more specifically!

God bless all and keep safe!
Love, Jeanne

Garland's Family No news this time.

Ed's Family

Dear Family,

Hope this finds everyone doing well. I was doing better before this computer ate my second attempt to get some news to Joe about our branch of the tree, so it may be a paraphrased version this time.

Lindy and Curt and family are all doing well. Lindy works part-time at the Sr. Citizens Center, and also cleans at the motel there in Cheyenne. Curt is mowing for the County this summer and they are very active in their church.

Richie and Judy are looking forward to moving into the big house that is on the property where their trailer sits. The owner of the place asked them to stay on after Judy's sister moves. They will continue to take care of the owner's goats and the property. The girls are doing good, and Camron recently remarried.

Jerry and Teresa, Chandra, Braydon and other family members went to Evan's graduation from Basic Training on Good Friday in Missouri. Then Evan left for El Paso where he will be stationed for 8 months. The following Monday, Jerry was blessed with the exciting adventure of starting a new job. He is working north of Wheeler with a company called Embrook---better benefits, better pay, 10 days on and 4 days off. So they were planning on getting to visit with Evan every chance they got.

Randal's dad, Nile, recently had major surgery to remove an aneuysm from his left side. God performed many miracles that week and we are so thankful. Pa is home doing pretty good. Recovery time will be 3 months. Rhett and Ashley got to come home for Memorial Day weekend, and we loved that, and we just got back from visiting them and Heather and her family. Randal hadn't got to see them since Christmas, and Hadley (21/2 yrs.) and Ryan (17 mos.) are growing fast. We had a great time with them all, and Hadley and Ryan's favorite things are swinging, sliding, and swimming.

Talked to Amy briefly. She is doing good. Working hard and trying to keep her place mowed. She is still in Mason and working in Fredricksburg at the candle factory.

***** Just a reminder about Randal's Retirement Party-----you are invited if you want to come-----Friday, August 24th, at noon at the Groom Legion Hall. Please call me at 806-248-7213 or 806-433-9956 by

Monday of that week so we can prepare plenty of food. This is a free meal and we will try to feed you till you are full! We are getting really excited about his retirement and the time is flying by.

Monta Faye is not doing as well as she was. She keeps falling. We have cut back her meds some, but yesterday, the heart dr. increased her blood pressure meds again in an attempt to get her pressure under control so she can finally get those teeth cut out---Aug. 7th. Please pray for her and all of her caregivers. As of today, the Home Health will start physical therapy on her, so we hope that will help as well. If she keeps falling, she will have to go to a nursing home, cause they can't handle her there at the retirement center.

We pray that God blesses each of you with a terrific summer. Love to all, Nancy

Dale's Family

Hello Family,

I do hope this reaches the newsletter this quarter. (It didn't) I have been so disorganized this last year and a half. I used Joe's old address to send the email so it's out there in cyber space somewhere. So I think this one will work. So - here goes.

I'll try to recap very briefly. Daddy and Frances have been so visit last fall. That was about the time the kicked off the new Monument in the Arlington National Cemetery. Also the same day we decided to take them on a quick drive thru DC. I just love that city! But face it, you gotta love history, walk and observe, or be very patient. Daddy is, I think Frances was being tolerant. Anyway - As Loretta and the girls were along, I being my usual self: expressed how Daddy should sit between us so we could share him. We had such fun; well some of us did. As we are driving south on 66 the Daniels girls are talking of when the college girls were going to have Halloween and one of their friends hadn't decided on a costume. But had the idea if she even went to the party, she would just put a garbage bag on and call herself 'white trash'. We all had a laugh. You must understand, my daughter has a 40% hearing loss, so everything has to be repeated or most is lost to her especially in this type of setting. That started a game of sorts, and we would all scream out white trash, but one time Daddy saw real trash on the road and sadly said, "Oh no, black trash. " WE HAD A BALL! Just as things were calming down, we were nearing DC when Air Force Planes zipped overhead! We all started looking and then remembered the dedication for the new monument. Oh I see them, and pulled Daddy my way, Loretta said just look straight ahead Daddy and tugged him her way! Just picture it in your mind - planes all over the place and I don't think Daddy saw a one! We were just trying to help the man get a better view for crying out loud! He just needs to come, I'll get a scooter, wheelchair, buggy, something, so we can spend the entire day and see some of the wonderful things DC has to enjoy. What a tribute to our countrymen and women, to our country. We need to continue to make America the very best she can be.

Anyway - on the way back we buzzed by Delaplane and took a few pictures, and I thought of Cousin Fred. I will never be able to separate him from Delaplane and how he has opened up that part of our family history for me. It has also inspired Cheri' to start researching her father's side of the family. Thanks Cousin Fred. You're great in our eyes and hearts.

Daddy and Frances had only been gone a week or so and my Mom, Joyce, came to stay with us for a few months. She came to lend a hand and ended up working her hiney off. I decided to get that upper respiratory infection, which I thought was going to get the better of me for a while. Ron got the flu, and Cheri' tried to keep her distance. I think she returned to Texas to get a rest and to escape this horribly cold weather.

As I mentioned, Loretta and family now live in Virginia of all places. Both Heather and Megan attend Liberty University. Loretta teaches in Bedford and Robert works in Lynchburg. Not quite Colorado, but it will do for now. The girls manage better than Loretta and Rob I believe. Youth, oh my gracious, and these girls giggle all the time, I do mean all the time too! It is great having them close enough to see each other once in a while. We spent Thanksgiving and Christmas together and have been to Monticello together, DC, a womens seminar on campus, not as much as I would like. But a lot more than when they lived across the US from me!

Cheri', my daughter has had a lot going on the last year and a half. The good that has come from this thus far is that she has lots of support from people to help her get help we tried to get it seems a lifetime ago for her. She also is sporting new hearing aids. About 4 years ago they were not an option for her. Now with the digital changes, the degree of hearing loss, and knowing her hearing loss will increase each year, the advances in hearing aid technology have made it possible to help her. It is a new world. Not always a bearable one at times. She has taken them out and doesn't wear them at home most of the time yet. She has heard birds singing in the trees for the first time about two weeks ago, and had to ask what that noise was.

She has watched NASCAR for 3 or 4 years, they have a question and answer time for the announcers before the race. A little bell goes off when their time if up, she heard it for the first time this passed Sunday! She didn't realize leaves crunch when you walk on them,... and she now understands why Ron says somebody is eating like a pig! They don't just look like they are thrashing their food; she says they sound like pigs too. Life is never dull. It is amazing the things I have taken for granted. I knew she didn't hear, I just didn't really understand how much, some things actually frighten her until she understands. All in All, she does hear people much better; and that is the goal.

Neil is looking for a new ride. Last Sunday night there was a knock on Neil's front door. One of his neighbors was walking his dog when he noticed Neil's truck had a fire under the hood. They get out there trying to fight the fire, (part of Neil's Sunday School classmates were at his house), one of the other kids have called the fire dept... but, the truck does not survive the fire. Sad case. Neil settled with the insurance company, so now between classes, work, church functions, some extra side jobs, he has got to find a vehicle. Neil is working on some CAD classes. Oh - I think this was part of the last newsletter. I think it was July or something, I am so bad if I don't keep a calendar at my fingertips, Neil and a few other friends were riding bikes. Neil is dared to jump a log, well, proving he is a Waters, he goes for it. The front wheel makes it but the back wheel doesn't clear the log. Neil ends up with a broken collar bone, so bad in fact it tears tendons, ligaments, and ends up having surgery to pin him all together again and physical therapy to regain strength just to lift his arm again. God is slightly altering his course to a direction he was going years ago I think. Toward architecture, Neil thinks graphic design, we shall see. But God is so abundantly good. Faithful above all things.

Gailia and Brandt are doing well. We email them back and forth. Daddy and Loretta are better than I am for that. Brandt was in the states taking a course in February/March while Amber and Gailia went for a trip to Israel and Jordon. They really saw some interesting sites. I am not sure where the last e-mail picture came from. I just received it a day or two ago. Picture this: You are in a car following a Mitsubishi truck going down a highway, The scenery is barren looking as we see in countries such as Israel, Jordon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia,... you know desert type land...

The only thing out of place is the cargo in the back of the truck you are following; sitting down as if it is a pet, a camel fits perfectly! Sorry, maybe you just have to see it for real!

Bruce, Robbie, and Kay are having some rough times but I am sure all will be well. Not all great minds think alike. Do you and your kids all the time. Mom brought us some pictures of the boys and they are adorable and all boy too. Curtis and his girlfriend are fine.

Louis, my other brother, if you get this newsletter I owe you for a picture frame, I missed the reunion and didn't get to pick it up, but it isn't forgotten. Bobby, I know this too is late, but the Christmas card just made my year wonderful. I will find your address and mail you a letter much deserved. I love you both so very much. You are forever mine; whether you want to be or not.

I am sure I will think of more to say as usual but I do need to send this off or I will miss it again.
Love to all of You. Hope your spring is beautiful and your year is marvelous.

Karen

Elmeda's Family

It's Summer!!!! Time for picnics, outdoor activities, and family get-togethers.

During the Memorial Day holiday, Lowell, Jessie and Mom came to Oklahoma. We all went out to visit at the cemetery and at an Aunt and Uncle's house in Arapaho. I had instructions to take Mom's porch swing out so Lowell can take it back to Idalou. (There was once a song about sitting on the porch and swinging, maybe mom is living the song.) Anyway, we all had a good get-together. John and little Warren were also there, but Amanda had to stay home and work.

Rachel is home for the summer, but it isn't being very leisurely. She enrolled in a couple of classes at the local college.

Birthdays:

July

4 John Elder
5 Rhett Patterson
30 Randal Patterson

August

17 Roper Lee Swanson
24 Nancy Patterson
25 Kenneth Jensen
26 Virginia Patterson

September

7 Joe Elder
14 Carol Elder
23 Kenneth Dale Watts
25 Elmeda Elder

Please send all omissions and corrections to the editors.

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