

Social Media Ministry

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Merry Christmas!

The ministry's clubs are all going well and growing, things at the office are going smoothly as our new office manager has been getting things in hand, and we're gearing up for a big banquet in April to celebrate 30 years of ministry! But that's all the ministry updates I'll be sharing in this letter because each December I take a break from sharing with you about YFC's ministry to share about my family.

This year was difficult in our extended family. We started the year in January finding out that Joah, our nephew (born in Sept. 2016) was diagnosed with Williams Syndrome. It was both a relief to finally have an answer for his health issues, but also scary to learn the struggles he will continue to have in his life. A few days later we were welcoming our nephew Nicky to the family and then in March, at almost 2 months old, Nicky passed away from SIDS. Needless to say, those events were very difficult to deal with and have affected our entire family. **We have had to rely on our faith to get us through each day and trust that God cares for us even when we don't understand why these things happen.**

We have been blessed this year as well. Harry took a new job this fall at the same school, which is both challenging him and allowing him to use his skills to help the entire school instead of only a classroom of students. Everyone in our household has been healthy this year, although Elizabeth did break her arm playing soccer this fall! We were able to spend a week in Williamsburg, VA this summer which we all really enjoyed! The kids have inherited their dad's enjoyment of historical places! The kids are all doing well in school- Michael (8th grade) and Elizabeth (6th grade) are both in middle school, Ben is in 3rd grade at a new elementary school and Rachel is in preschool. They've been active outside of school too. Rachel enjoys time alone with mom and playdates with friends while her siblings are at school. Ben played soccer in both spring and fall this year, and Elizabeth played this fall until she broke her arm. Both Michael and Ben have continued in Boy/Cub Scouts, and Elizabeth recently joined Girl Scouts. All of them are enjoying AWANA again this year. Harry has continued teaching a Graduate Course at Hood, and we are both serving as leaders in Cub Scouts and helping with the children's ministry at church. I've continued leading MOPS at our church, coached Ben's soccer team again this fall and am finishing up my 13th year of working part-time for CMYFC!

Thank you all for your prayers and support for me and this ministry to young people in Frederick and Washington Counties. Please keep us all in your prayers this coming year. I pray that you will grow in faith and love this year and are able to praise God no matter what!

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