



December 1, 2012

Vernon View

Milestones

Mark the milestones of your love and mercy, God...~ Psalm 25:6 (MSG)



We've been married for 20 years! Remembering back over the years, it's only through God's love, mercy, & forgiveness that we've made it to this milestone! As we took time to reflect about our life together we realized in a new way that He is the God of restoration & healing! We rejoiced together as a family with a 3 day get-a-way at the [Chateau Seláh](#) where we gathered with our extended family to eat & play. Thankfully, we were able to enjoy this amazing retreat due to the generosity of [Alan & Amanda Bracken](#) (plus a little work on Ryan's part). We encourage you to take the time to remember what God has done, share how He's brought restoration in to your relationships, and rejoice in it as you bring Him the glory. We would love to hear your story of Remembrance, Restoration, and Rejoicing. Please [share](#) it with us so we can give God the glory!



Proclaim His Name

...*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* ~Matthew 3:17 (ESV)

Riley placed his faith in Jesus Christ a couple of years ago and this summer he approached us about being baptized. He wanted to tell his family and friends about Jesus and what He'd done for him and all of us. So, after a [Day Quest](#) in August I had the privilege of baptizing him! I admit, at first I was hesitant to have him do this at such a young age but not long after he made his request, God used the following passage to convict me. *"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."* -Matt. 19:14 I ended the baptism by presenting my son & brother in Christ as one...*"with whom I am well pleased."* Praise be to God & proclaim His name!



See the comment about this photo on the other page in the section entitled "Through the Mouths of Babes"



Riley using the evangecube to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Check it out at www.e3resources.org

“Through the Mouths of Babes...” ~ Matt. 21:16a (NASB)

Serve

...work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ~ Romans 12:11 (NLT)

● RILEY WAS LESS THAN HAPPY TO FIND OUT THAT WE WERE GOING IN A CAVE. AFTER HE HAD SUCCESS, HE EXCLAIMED, “THIS IS THE BEST DAY EVER!”

● BOTH BOYS QUOTE MANY TIMES DAILY, “BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! DO NOT BE AFRAID!”

● REECE STATES, “I LOVE BAILEY & I WANT TO MARRY HER.” MOM, “REECE YOU NEED TO WAIT UNTIL YOU GROW UP.” HE THINKS, “NO, I’VE GOT TO MARRY HER NOW!”

● AT RILEY’S BAPTISM REECE DECLARED THAT HE WAS BEING “BABBITZED” TOO. HE TOOK MATTERS IN TO HIS OWN HANDS & DUNKED HIMSELF AT THE SAME TIME THAT I WAS DUNKING RILEY.

● WHILE PLAYING W/ A DAUGHTER OF 1 OF HIS TEACHERS THEY REQUESTED 5 MORE MINUTES TO PLAY. SHE DIDN’T REPLY B/C SHE WAS DISTRACTED. RILEY SAID “ MRS. MATHENA, WE’RE PATIENTLY WAITING YOUR RESPONSE!”

Equestrian, Outdoor Sportsman, & a female Splash! were all new programs that I helped coordinate this year. All of them were full & everyone really seemed to enjoy their time in each. Many volunteers & staff members were needed to pull it off. I’m grateful to each of them! Even my own family helped cool down the horses after each of the horse shows that were part of the closing ceremonies for the Equestrian program.



Elizabethton Soccer Association Volunteer Coach. I haven’t really taken the time to volunteer much in the community. Jennifer and I were really feeling led to get more involved in our community and a marvelous opportunity rose up in this! What a blessing to coach

3-5 year olds in soccer! I think I may have missed my true calling!



Ryan coaching soccer.

Doe River Gorge Ministries celebrated 25 Years of Defining Moments this year. On

October 30th there was a banquet to commemorate this joyous occasion. It was great to see God receive the glory for the miraculous and life-changing moments He has orchestrated out here over the last 25 years! There was a “walk down memory lane” that was created with a billboard for each year that was full of pictures, newspaper articles, & publications. Also, we looked ahead to the next 25 years by having Riley make an appeal to support DRG so he can go to camp! (pic left)



Riley on stage with Tim Richardson, our new Development Director, speaking to a crowd of 350 people! No fear!



Riley, 7

Reece, 5

As Christians, we’re called to make disciples. What better place to start than with your own children? Our efforts to do this have been creative and experiential. We’re pictured above spelunking, where we taught the boys about the 1st day of Creation...”Now the earth was formless & empty, darkness was over the surface of the waters.”-Gen.1:2 They have a much better understanding of this passage now!

Praise!

“I will praise thee, Oh Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” ~Psalm 139:14 (NIV)



Top left: Ken Vissers & Kike Vega (Honduras)
Bottom: Jeff Smythe, Silenia Diaz (Costa Rica), Juan Carlos Cevallos (Ecuador) & Me.

◇ For being able to attend the Latin American Adventure Summit in October. What a blessing to be reunited with our brothers and sisters from El Refugio in Ecuador, La Cumbre in Costa Rica, & Cerro de Luz in Honduras. (pic left)

◇ For being able to host the female SWAT Bible Study in our home this Summer! (pic right)

◇ For our family & friends who support us in so many ways!

◇ For the 325 young people who accepted Jesus as their Savior this Summer!



Jennifer hosted the study with Tonja Johnson, a full-time volunteer.

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Click Here to Support the Vernons!



Our family photo from our annual Spring prayer gathering for the upcoming Summer of ministry.

We’re so grateful for all of you! Thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and support!



Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!