

2006

The Flynns' Year in Review

It seems as if we've lived two different lives this past year: the first in our cramped, bursting-at-the-seams apartment in Thousand Oaks, California, with Logan as our roommate and the other bedroom being used primarily as storage; and the second in our sweet house in Waco, Texas, with Logan having his own room and plenty of space for all of us (and our stuff). And once again, through it all, God's hand of providence has guided us into this next chapter in our lives.

As the year began, it was obvious that we would need to make a change—and the sooner, the better. The outrageous cost of living in our area made it seemingly impossible for us to ever own a house, Carl's commute to Pepperdine was becoming more and more undesirable, and Logan's increasing mobility was making our already space-challenged apartment feel like a phone booth. It became a quality of life decision for our family. In February, Carl learned of a position at Baylor University in their Information Technology department (where he had worked part of the time we lived here before). He applied, interviewed and was offered the job all within a couple of weeks. In March the three of us flew to Waco (Logan's first plane ride) to go house-hunting, and we found a wonderful "move-in ready", 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom brick house (yes, the bricks to the left) with trees, plenty of yard and pretty much everything we were looking for in a home. Carl remained at Pepperdine through the end of the school year, with Baylor keeping his new position open for him so that he could complete the class he was teaching at Pepperdine, and we made the move to Waco at the end of April/beginning of May. We are thankful to our parents for their financial help that allowed our dream of being house owners to become a reality. We are also thankful that Carl's stepmom Deb flew with Chantal and Logan to Waco in advance of Carl and his dad arriving in the moving truck - Chantal could not have done it without her!

During the first weekend in our new home, we were greeted by the most violent storm we've ever experienced. The three of us spent about 1-½ hours huddled in our hall bathroom, with Logan managing to sleep through it all. We're very thankful that we didn't sustain any damage, especially after hearing that as many as 4 tornadoes were reported to have touched down. Other than that, our transition back to Waco has been enjoyable. We love the sense of community that we are experiencing here. We've been welcomed back to Crestview Church of Christ, and have been blessed to catch up with many Texas friends again. We continue to settle into our new home, and we hope to have all of our boxes unpacked and home improvement dreams realized by the time Logan graduates from high school!

As many of you know, **Chantal's Mama**, Joani Giguere, was diagnosed with cervical cancer this summer, and has endured 32 radiation treatments, 6 chemotherapy treatments, surgery to temporarily implant radioactive needles into her cervix, weekly shots to treat anemia, 3 compression fractures on her spine (caused by the high doses of radiation) that resulted in excruciating pain and muscle spasms, a procedure to inject quick-drying bone cement into the fractured vertebra to stabilize the area and prevent more damage, 3 hospitalizations, a few weeks at a rehabilitation center to receive physical and occupational therapy, and numerous MRIs, CT scans, x-rays and various other tests. It's been frustrating at times to be 3 states away, but Chantal calls Mama everyday and we continue to journey through this with her. Chantal started a blog to help everyone stay informed on Mama's condition. Visit <http://mamaupdate.blogspot.com/> for updates.

Logan is a happy-go-lucky little toddler who trots everywhere, and the joy and the love that he brings into our lives is our greatest blessing. He took his first steps at 10 months and weaned himself at 11 months. He said his first words at 11+ months, and continues to delight and astound us with his ever-increasing vocabulary. Logan celebrated his 1st birthday in June with a Mickey Mouse-themed party, attended by nearly all of his grandparents and great-grandma (Chantal's Mama was unable to attend because she was in the middle of her radiation and chemotherapy treatments). Logan dressed up as Nemo for Halloween and helped pass out candy. He's a good eater, enjoys his Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes at church, and has a very kind and helpful spirit. Logan's hobbies and special interests include the moon, trucks, tractors, trains, airplanes, books, bubbles, balls, animals and their sounds, body parts, playing outside (he LOVES "outside"), playing with water, helping Mommy unload the dishwasher (he specializes in unloading the top rack), and looking for geckos on our window screens.

Chantal is thankful every day that she's Logan's Mommy and full-time caretaker, calling it the hardest job she's ever loved. While still in California, she continued her participation in a weekly women's Community Bible Study, attendance at "Baby and Me" classes, and involvement with Conejo Valley Moms. She also cherished her weekly get-togethers with our dear friend Angie Lemley and son Mattox. On



Logan at 1-year-old • June 2006

the Waco side of life, Chantal enjoyed taking Logan to the Baylor pool several times this summer, attending Museum Mondays at the Mayborn Museum (which has a fantastic children's Discovery Center) and Toddler Time at the library, as well as occasional trips to Waco's Cameron Park Zoo. She has a couple of friends with little ones whom she regularly gets together with, most notably fellow Pepperdiner Tali Barbarick and daughter Caelan. She takes a yoga class, and works faithfully and endlessly in her role as Flynn Family Domestic Manager. She loves Logan's wet, sloppy kisses, hearing his bare feet trotting through the house, and reading to him while he's snuggled up against her.

Carl loves being Logan's "Da-dee". He finds great joy in every minute he spends with Logan and can think of nothing more worthwhile than to spend time with him. When Carl isn't being Daddy, he enjoys his work as an Information Technology Specialist with the Electronic Library group at Baylor, where he is responsible for most of the student-use printers and Apple computers on campus, does some student support mainly involving e-mail problems/questions, and handles publicity for his work group. He's also done some computer consulting work for one of our friends. While we were in California he continued to play in a community volleyball league with his Notorious D.I.G. teammates, and currently tries to play basketball twice a week on campus. He is looking forward to finding a volleyball outlet here in Waco. He leads the call to worship at church on Sundays on a rotating basis, taught a class at church on Wednesday nights this fall, and is really good at home improvement projects (which are many).

Our **travels** this year included attending Pepperdine's Homecoming in February, and going to Palm Springs for Mama's birthday in March and again in July to be with her following her radioactive needle implant surgery. We made our annual pilgrimage to Lake Havasu, via Palm Springs, for Labor Day weekend to celebrate our niece Carlene's birthday (we were able to visit with Carl's cousins Stan Deller and David Weir while in Palm Springs, and Chantal's Mama came with us to Havasu). In September we attended our first Bible Lectures at Abilene Christian University, where Carl taught a class on "Jesus and Film." While in Abilene we were blessed to spend time with beloved friends Kyle & Camille Dickson & family and Gay Barton, as well as seeing some Pepperdine friends. In October we took Logan to his first Heart o' Texas Fair here in Waco, where he was a bit intimidated in the petting zoo and loved the pony ride so much he cried when it was over. Logan also experienced his first Baylor Homecoming parade this fall. Carl attended an IT professional conference in November, all the way up in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The day after Thanksgiving, Chantal made a spur-of-the-moment, surprise trip to visit Mama during her most recent hospitalization, leaving Logan in Carl's care. This was the first time she'd been away from Logan in 17 months, and everyone survived. While in Palm Springs, cousins Stan & David treated Chantal to a lovely dinner (thank you again, and we'll try and make the news next time!). We will enjoy Christmas in our new home, and then travel to California and Lake Havasu to spend time with our families.

Logan was 18 months old on December 8 (we can't believe it!), and we celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary on December 12 (we can't believe this either!). We hope that you and your family have a blessed Christmas season.

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

Love,

Carl, Chantal and Logan

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Our wonderful house



October 2006