



"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:8-12

2009: The Flynns' Year in Review

Oh how we love to receive your cards, newsletters and family photos at this time of year. It is a joy to hear from you and to keep in touch with you. And so we present to you our annual labor of love, our Flynn Family Newsletter.

We have a handful of events from the year to highlight. In January Mia received a baby blessing during the "Celebration of New Life" at church. In late April/early May we traveled through Palm Springs and Havasu en route to Pepperdine for its annual Bible Lectures. While at Pepperdine we stayed with our dear friends Dave & Angie Lemley and enjoyed some wonderful time together. During our trip we also saw all of Carl's family and many friends. In October we went to the Heart o' Texas Fair (Mia loved her first pony ride and the animals in the petting zoo), enjoyed a hayride and an afternoon in the country at a nearby family-owned farm, and attended the Baylor Homecoming Parade. We traveled to Havasu again at Thanksgiving, by way of Palm Springs, and enjoyed a relaxing week in a waterfront condo courtesy of Dad & Deb. During our trip we saw all of Carl's family and several Palm Springs friends, including cousins Stan & David (always a pleasure!), and toured Mama's former house and saw all of the great renovations the new owners have made. We also celebrated three milestone events with our dear friend Justin Schneider: his law school graduation in August, his marriage to Angela Boyd in October, and his passing the Bar in November.

This year has also been one of home improvement. We added more bookcases and finally unpacked all of our books and photo albums. We also added some new items to our household, including a back screen door, kitchen light fixture, floor tile in both bathrooms, washing machine, dishwasher, big-screen TV, media cabinet, and a mini-van. Whew! Chantal hopes that next year's home improvement items include a new mailbox and backyard fence.

Logan turned 4 in June and celebrated with a "Diego the Animal Rescuer"-themed birthday party. Soon afterward he miraculously began peeing and pooping in the toilet, thereby nullifying Chantal's despairing thought that one day she'd be sending him off to college with a package of Depends. He is becoming more of a protector and less of a tormentor toward Mia. He is thriving in Junior Kindergarten three days a week where he enjoys books, music, writing his letters and numbers, and learning good behavior. School fieldtrips have included going to the post office and a dairy farm (at the latter, Logan bottle-fed a calf!). He loved "SonRock Camp" at Vacation Bible School this summer, and dressed up as Diego for Halloween. He helped pack his own suitcase for our Thanksgiving trip and put most of the ornaments on this year's Christmas tree. At Logan's urging we decorated the outside of our house with Christmas lights for the first time. Hobbies and special interests include cars and trucks, sidewalk chalk, "Diego the Animal Rescuer," "Cars," playing games on his laptop, Animal Planet, playing outside, playing "Sports" and "Cars MaterNational" on our Wii, racing laps on the kitchen table with various vehicles, drawing pictures and taping them up all over the house, creating adventures in the bathtub and reading at bedtime with Daddy.



Mia is a busy toddler with a sweet smile and a passion for unpacking, emptying, sorting, organizing, repacking, and refilling. She's still a great sleeper and still loves to be held. She is also Logan's #1 fan. She finally crawled at 9 months old, and weaned herself from breastfeeding at almost 10 months old while simultaneously rejecting Gerber baby food. At first Chantal panicked since Mia only had two teeth and hadn't yet mastered a sippy cup. However, we introduced finely chopped table food and she became an instant eating machine – gobbling up her food with two hands as if we'd starved her for 10 months! She celebrated her 1st birthday in July with a "Butterflies and Flowers"-themed party. Papa Chuck and Grandma Joan (Carl's mom & stepdad) came out from California for the festivities. Mia started walking at 13 ½ months and now trots all over the house. At Halloween, she was adorable tromping around in her kitty cat costume. She seems to have a keen sense of fashion, best demonstrated when she wears Logan's stuffed snake like a feather boa. Her exploding vocabulary includes "Uh-oh," "Hi" and "Bye" (the latter two usually accompanied by her 'Miss America wave' -- hand twisting at the wrist), "backpack," "bubbles," and "Baby Jesus." Her hobbies and special interests include animals (especially neighborhood dogs, cats and squirrels), music, "singing", books, her stuffed hamster (thank you Carlene!), the moon, splashing in her kiddie pool this summer, playing outside, cleaning up, helping load the dryer, coloring, randomly flushing the toilet and shredding toilet paper.

Carl...If you follow Carl on Twitter or Facebook then you likely already know everything in this newsletter and more! He continues to work at Baylor as the Director of Marketing and Communication for IT and Libraries. His first year in this new office was challenging, but he enjoyed many major accomplishments. At home, Carl spends much of his time being Daddy to Logan and Mia. Logan and Daddy can be found racing around the table, doing the "Cars Wii," playing pretend football, golfing, and chasing/throwing around a ball in the backyard. Mia and Daddy spend time racing around the table with Logan, reading books, playing "Peek-a-Boo," "flying" around the house, enjoying piggy back rides and playing hide and seek with Logan. Carl has accomplished much around the house this year, but still has a long "honey do" list that he hopes to tackle during the Christmas/New Year holidays. He continues to serve as co-coordinator of the adult education ministry at Crestview Church of Christ, where he enjoys planning and preparing the curriculum for the congregation as well as teaching a variety of Bible classes. Of course, Carl also enjoys time with Chantal, and looks forward to finding ways in 2010 to spend more time together. One of his highlights of the year was seeing U2 and MUSE in concert at the new Cowboys Stadium in Dallas with old Pepperdine friends. He also remains active playing basketball twice a week, and hopes to leap back into volleyball in the coming year.

Chantal is in a much better place emotionally and psychologically than this time last year. Logan's added maturity and improved behavior at the magical age of 4, combined with 'Love and Logic' parenting skills, regular counseling and a Lexapro prescription (for anxiety and depression) have made for a very good 6 months. She specifically credits Lexapro for giving her her life back. She is once again enjoying her full-time job as Mommy and Flynn Family Domestic Manager, and delighting in watching Logan and Mia grow and develop. She is thankful every day to not be working outside the home; there's still nothing else she'd rather be doing, and no paycheck she'd rather be receiving. She has also regularly seen a chiropractor for most of this year for a sciatic problem leftover from her pregnancy with Mia. This summer she had a special ring made for herself using the diamonds from her engagement ring, Mama's engagement ring, Gram's engagement ring and Gram's anniversary band. It's sentimental and beautiful, and so much better than being in a box. She is blessed by family who are also friends and friends who are like family. She enjoyed a Mommy overnight get-away in October at a local hotel complete with an in-room Jacuzzi, loved being a chaperone on Logan's dairy farm fieldtrip (and helping to bottle-feed a calf), is a consignor for Just Between Friends children's consignment sale (spring & fall), and attends a weekly Ladies Bible Class at church.

We celebrated our 17th wedding anniversary on December 12 with dinner and a movie (we finally started using babysitters this summer, and who knew it could be so liberating and wonderful?!), and are staying right here in Waco for Christmas and New Year's. We are excited for our brother and sister-in-law's (Sean and Chevonne) new baby due next summer. It seems that we've had ongoing plagues of sickness in our little family this year, so we're hoping for a healthy 2010.

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year!

Love,

Carl, Chantal, Logan & Mia

2208 Real Drive

Waco, Texas, 76712

(254) 235-7366 (home) • (805) 338-8775 (Chantal's cell) • (254) 366-4432 (Carl's work iPhone)

Chantal's Email: c2flynn@yahoo.com • Carl's Email: carlflynn@me.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/carlflynn/ • Facebook: www.facebook.com/carlflynn/ • Blog: carlflynn.blogspot.com/

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6.24-26