



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Our Friends and Family,



2005 has come and gone. Todd and I will have to say goodbye to our youth in the New Year. We will try to leave our thirties behind with some measure of grace. (Todd is slightly more graceful than myself.) “It’s just another year,” says he. I plan to go kicking and screaming for all the good it will do me.

We bought a used boat and I am in love all over again, (with the boat of course). Maybe it is my kind of mid-life crisis Corvette, but my best days last summer were spent tubing around on the lake. Todd’s brother and family spent their vacation with us this summer. Todd and Dave said I’d **NEVER** get them off the tube, but of course they were **WRONG!!!** They were both slightly injured in the process and spent the rest of the day in the boat pouting. I did suffer a little pay back but it was worth it. Here’s a New Year’s tip: **Never challenge a middle-aged woman with a new toy built for speed.**

I helped plan the Rainford Family Reunion this past summer in Redfield. It was meant as a tribute to my reunion-loving Grandma on my mom’s side, and as a way to reacquaint with long lost cousins. We had a great time getting to know relatives from all over the United States. Sadly, we lost a favorite uncle, an aunt, and Todd’s mom shortly afterward. Good friends lost parents. The funerals were another sort of reunion that helped us remember to appreciate friends and family more and wish we spent more time with you.

Caleb is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are currently at odds about whether he will ever finish his state report. Caleb is adamant that no form of cheating should take place in the process, which is how he perceives all my efforts to speed him up a little! Caleb worries about what Mr. Storley will think if he has any help on his report. I worry about what Mr. Storley will think if Caleb misses school because I’ve choked him. I do appreciate his hard work in school though. (Wyman would have gladly let me write his report.) Caleb had some excitement when he rescued a very young fawn from some rushing water when a creek flooded several miles of pasture this summer near Britton. He had his 5 minutes of fame when it was on the local TV news. He is now beginning his hectic 3 on 3 and 5 man basketball schedule again this year. We also celebrated his first communion at church this fall.

Wyman entered the junior high/high school building this year. He is a 12-year-old 7<sup>th</sup> grader and thinks the high school life is fi-i-ine. Wyman’s focus is whatever sport happens to be going on at any particular season of his life. He **LOVED** getting to play “real” football, where you get to hit people and run to glory if you’re lucky enough to get the ball. He did get to score a few times, one of which was an extremely lucky (or, according to Wyman, *extremely* skillful) interception and 90 yard run made sweeter because it was witnessed by his Grandma Dardy. He is proud each day he turns in his homework or studies for a test. I am proud each day I do not choke him for not turning in his homework or not studying for a test. I co-teach his 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class this year. He also started confirmation classes at our church this fall. In January my first baby will be a TEENAGER. We find this somewhat terrifying, but maybe not as much as next year when he could conceivably get to **DRIVE.**

We love to hear from family and friends. We hope you drop in any chance you get.

Have a Very Blessed New Year,  
Melody, Todd, Wyman, and Caleb Wenz  
(Caleb, cousin Riley, Wyman



Rainford Reunion 2005)