

We hope you will enjoy . . .

“A Peek through the Window for Sights and Sounds at Our Homes”

December 2013

45th Edition

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We appreciate your friendship. You are in our prayers because we know you have had challenges this year, too. We want to hear from you. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- Romans 15:13

The Albertsons

Howard - in Plano; independent broker for electricity in the Texas deregulated marketplace, doing legal research

Sharron - in Plano; Life Chain state director; Golden Corridor Republican Women (GCRW) advisory board, ways and means/directory chairman

Herb, Jenny, Abigail (19), **Ben** (17 ½), **Celeste** (14), **Daniel** (11 ½), **Ezekiel** (7 ½) and **Zachary** (3 ½) - in Olathe, Kansas; Bursar at MidAmerica Nazarene University; home school mom; six active siblings

Shari, Eric, Mitch (7 ½), **Mandi** (6), **Michael** and **Melissa** (twins 4 ½), **Miles** (3) and **Matthew** (2 months) **Earhart** - in Eure, North Carolina; stay-at-home mom; pastor of Upper Room Assembly of God Church in Gatesville; six energetic cherubs

Shirlene, Jeff, Lacie (12), **Andy** (9) and **Jacob** (6 ½) **Kazmaier** - in Olathe, Kansas; full-time mom; self-employed architect; three happy kids

Heather - in Dubai; middle school history teacher at American Academy in Al-Mizhar

If you can linger longer, here are a few of the year’s events.

Howard helping commercial and residential accounts to save money on electricity using Cirro Energy, Direct Energy and Glacial Energy, doing legal research online, following friends’ activities on Facebook, watching governmental missteps reported on FOX News; coping with the increasing chal-

lenges of Type 2 diabetes and wound care appointments, celebrating better vision after cataract removal, going with Sharron to Kansas to be with Herb and Shirlene’s families for Christmas 2012 (see photo at right) and later for Abi and Celeste’s graduations from twelfth and eighth grades; updating <http://LifeChain.net> and helping publish another GCRW directory with information that Sharron collected

Sharron making hundreds of calls for GCRW as chairman of directory and ways and means committees, topping previous years’ collections from sponsors; recruiting volunteers for several friends’ successful election campaigns, receiving volunteer awards with most volunteer hours in the state; finding more than a hundred alumni before Pasadena Academy reunion and putting together their stories in an online “notebook;” celebrating hundreds of books read by children and pre-teens as librarian at Richardson Church of the Nazarene; visiting with 150 Texas Life Chain coordinators as state director and with many of the coordinators in more than 1550 cities across the U.S. and Canada as coordinator of <http://LifeChain.net> for the 26th annual peaceful pro-life, prayer event on the first Sunday of October; glad that Kitty and Chihuahua Puppy are tolerating each other

Herb managing the student accounts office as Bursar at Mid America Nazarene University, Olathe, Kansas, commuting to Sterling, Kansas to be with his family on weekends until their house sold and they all moved to Olathe, volunteering at events in Kansas City; **Jenny** homeschooling three teens and three youngsters, babysitting



two others, handwriting for Sterling Services, having fun with her flourishing garden, packing to move, making new friends, volunteering and having date nights with Herb in Olathe; **Abi** (19) graduating from twelfth grade, helping Jenny babysit, attending high school camp and counseling at children’s camp, working at a Christian Daycare in Olathe; **Ben** (17 ½) in twelfth grade, creating meals and snow sculptures, playing basketball, working at a coffee shop in Sterling, competing in teen Bible quizzing with Celeste in Hutchison and Olathe; **Celeste** (14) in ninth grade, helping plan meals, advancing in teen quizzing and on the piano, enjoying time with best friends before moving, babysitting weekly for an Olathe family; **Daniel** (11 ½) in sixth grade, participating in World Quiz at General Assembly, playing baseball, glad to have boys in the neighborhood to play with, happy to be in the youth group now; **Ezekiel** (7½) having fun in homeschool second grade doing third grade work, participating in World Quiz at General Assembly, playing summer league pitching



machine baseball; **Zachary** (3 ½) a bundle of animated energy, wanting to “do school” like his siblings and be ten on his next birthday, enjoying Legos with his brothers; **all of them** working at district children’s camp while Daniel and Zeke were campers; going to Church of the Nazarene General Assembly to see long lost friends

Shari homeschooling her second and first graders, reaching into her mental cobwebs to help Eric with his college math course, getting ready for Earhart Baby #6 who came on Sept 30; **Eric** staying busy with projects at church, on schedule to finish his degree in Leadership Studies at Regent University in May 2014, making fuel for his diesel truck from recycled motor oil in his



“spare” time; **Mitch** (7 ½) enjoying all things LEGO including Star Wars and Lord of the Rings, camping out with Royal Ranger boys from church, daily emptying the dishwasher and teaching Miles how to do it; **Mandi** (6) smiling broadly while driving a four-wheeler around the yard, enjoying crafts (and snacks!) each Wednesday night at MPact Girls, taking ballet lessons with Missi; **Michael** (4 ½) reveling in time with Dad fixing up the four-wheelers and learning to drive a “little” faster, asking often if he can “do school,” marching through the house with Miles as his

police sidekick; **Missi** (4 ½) learning to say “Yes, ma’am” in the preschool class at homeschool coop, jumping on the trampoline (and the couch), pushing her babies in the stroller while shepherding Miles through the house; **Miles** (almost 3) taking unauthorized excursions to the neighbors, trekking in the woods with the big kids, learning how to color and then practicing on flat surfaces throughout the house; **Matthew** (2 months) arriving on Grandma Albertson's birthday, enjoying attention and hugs from all five of his siblings, smiling and giggling when anyone talks to him; **all of them** glad for a visit from Grandma Albertson in November

Shirlene helping with Lacie’s and Andy’s choirs at Olathe College Church of the Nazarene, enjoying ladies' Bible study, counseling for Lacie’s group at church camp, driving two hours each school day to take the kids to Whitefield Academy in Kansas City, Missouri, going on field trips and volunteering with PTF; **Jeff** keeping busy on several projects in his architectural firm, serving on the church Sunday School Ministries Board, counseling for Andy’s group at church camp, taking his family to Church of the Nazarene General Assembly in Indianapolis, IN and sight-seeing in Chicago afterward; **both of them** teaching Andy's Sunday School class;

Lacie (12) in sixth grade doing well at a classical Christian school as are Andy and Jacob, enjoying art class, in church and school choir, Bible quizzing, Upward soccer, basketball, piano and swimming lessons; **Andy** (9) in third

grade, playing Upward flag-football, basketball and soccer, in kids’ church choir, quizzing, piano and swimming lessons, helping Jeff with yard work; **Jacob** (6 ½) in first grade learning to read, in quizzing, playing Upward sports and building Legos with Andy, taking swimming lessons; **all of them** enjoying their playful English Golden Retriever puppy

Heather in her sixth year of teaching social studies at American Academy in Al-Mizhar, Dubai as pastoral team leader, head of the Horse house



(one of three "houses" or teams); coordinating Week Without Walls field trips; spending Christmas 2012 in Lebanon (skiing AND beaching), spring break in Jordan and India; short trips to Fujeirah, Al Ain, Ras Al Khaima (other emirates), long weekend in Istanbul, Turkey, summer whirlwind trip through 14 states to visit siblings, friends and historical sites for her job, Christmas 2013 in Frankfurt, Germany; having high tea at the seven-star Burj al Arab; dining in the highest lounge in the world, singing holiday songs in a mixed acapella group in a local mall (first professional gig!); yachting and brunching; attending an Emirati wedding, volunteering at the USO, tutoring on the side

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Our year in pictures may be found on <http://SharpWebPage.com>

