

The Holt Family Newsletter-August-October 2022

Red Cliff Bible Camp

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Winter is definitely here in Wyoming! Summer seems like it happened a long time ago, and our December newsletter is already in the works, but there are still things that I need to update all of you on, so rewind with me back to August. The beginning of August, Keith helped to lead the Summit Trails overnight backpacking trip. The group hiked up the south fork of Gypsum, summittting Battleship and hiking back out the Jim Creek drainage. God gave safety on the 5-day hike, and Keith came back with many gorgeous scenery pictures. While he was hiking, my mom and dad were able to spend the week with the girls, Ty, and I. The girls enjoyed taking short day trips with them, but mostly we just spent time enjoying their company. I especially appreciated the extra help as we started figuring out "normal" family life with a newborn. We were able to start a few of the school books that week as well, and our school year is now well underway! We are past the halfway point in our first semester. Elayna, who has struggled to remain focused and motivated in past years, is doing well, and actually enjoying most of her work. Apparently, she is highly motivated by having a daily checklist with all of her assignments, so that she can mark things off as she accomplishes them. (I wish I had stumbled onto that fact years ago!) Taylee is loving the video school this year, especially as it helps her to better understand the concepts she needs to learn. The other girls are also doing well with their work and are usually diligent in working through each subject, motivated by the fact that once the work is done, they can move on to more fun activities. By Christmas break, we hope to pass the halfway point in our school year.

Our Ladies Retreat took place during the second weekend in September. Faith Taylor, our speaker from Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa, challenged the women at the retreat to dig deep into God's Word. Many times, women in our culture seem content to absorb the teaching we hear at church or read in devotional books, but sometimes we lack the tools or knowledge of how to really study the Bible itself in depth. The speaker provided messages that went deeper into the Bible, as well as giving tools for women to use to study God's Word for themselves. The ladies also enjoyed times of fellowship and encouragement outside of the sessions, both in outdoor activities and indoor craft projects.

During the fall, the work on the Lodge continued. After months of not-so-visible, yet essential continuing progress, we finally reached the point when the drywall that had been delivered in the fall of 2020 could be installed in the building! Almost as soon as the drywall was in place, a crew of volunteers arrived and began to paint the upper level of the lodge. The last of the three water tanks for the fire suppression is in place, and all the tanks were sandblasted, painted, filled, tested, and then drained for the winter, but they are ready to be refilled in the spring in preparation for potential occupancy. A two-man team is scheduled to install tile in the kitchen and bathroom portions of the Lodge in early December, and the entire building is enclosed and heated so that work can continue throughout the winter, as God provides the funds and volunteers. Red Cliff's goal is to receive partial occupancy of the building in the spring, allowing us to use the lower level during the summer, and then for us to have complete occupancy in August. There is still much work that needs to happen before then, but it is so encouraging to see so much visible progress! Keith is currently splitting his time between working at camp on projects and working at the office and from home, planning the winter retreats and recruiting staff for next year. He has been able to recruit at 4 colleges this fall, and he is tentatively planning another recruiting trip soon.

As a missions-supported family, we often have opportunities to see God provide in ways that we don't expect. For the past few years, Sierra has been interested in playing the violin. This summer, she was able to borrow a violin from a staff member for a couple of weeks and loved playing it, leading her to ask for one of her own. Unfortunately, buying her a violin, even a used one, was not something we had the money for at the time, so I told her that she needed to start praying for one. In September, God answered with a



yes! We were able to buy a used beginner violin for \$25. It needed only a few minor repairs, and it has a very nice sound, which is what I was praying for! She was able to see God answer her prayer in a very specific way, and we trust that it is growing her faith as a result. Taylee was also encouraged by Sierra's answered prayer, and she has begun to pray that God would provide a cello for her. Part of me wants to tell Taylee that she should pray for a less expensive, easier to find instrument, or to simply "borrow" Sierra's violin and learn to play that, but I know that my own lack of faith shows up in those responses. God owns the world and all that is therein, so we are praying together that He will provide as He sees fit.

During the month of October, Elayna was able to get her braces off. Her jaw now closes straight instead of crooked! We are praying and hoping that her retainers will allow her other teeth to grow in correctly so she will not need braces later on. I've always told the girls that we would not get braces for simple misaligned teeth that weren't causing problems, but it seems that God is going to grow my faith through allowing some of the girls to have issues that require braces to avoid problems later. Sierra's teeth are remarkably straight and even, however, her upper teeth overlap too far and are putting too much pressure on the lower ones, causing instability in the lower teeth. It's not an immediate problem, but one that will need addressed at some point in the near future. Her braces will cost about \$5,000. Savannah, however, has some major issues. Her adult teeth are growing in at odd angles, caused by her upper palette being too small. This is putting pressure on odd places on her teeth and gums, actually causing her to have some gum loss around her lower teeth. That problem needs addressed as soon as possible to avoid long lasting damage to her teeth. The estimate for her is about \$3,000 now, and after the immediate problems are fixed, there is a possibility she may need braces again, as she continues to grow.

Keith was able to take Taylee and Sierra hunting this fall. Both of the girls had youth deer tags that allowed them to harvest either a buck or a doe. Both of the girls were able to bring home a doe, only a few minutes apart! Although Keith hunted diligently for a deer of his own, he did not get one this year. We depend heavily on wild game to keep our grocery budget as low as possible, so when he wasn't able to get a deer this year, we knew God would have to provide another way. And He did, as only He can! The day after the deer season ended, a friend and supporter called to let us know that he had moose meat to split among the camp staff, if we were willing to help process it. We wound up with more meat from that moose than we would have gotten from a deer! Keith still has an elk tag left to fill, and the season will close on the 30th of November.

Ty is thriving, hitting all his milestones at the appropriate times, and he continues to be a very easy-going baby. His sisters all still adore him, and he rarely lacks for attention. He is continuing to nurse, but still needs supplementation with formula. He is currently in the 98th percentile in height, and 25th percentile for weight.

I'm almost out of room on this newsletter, so here is an abbreviated summary!

Praises: Homeschooling is going well, Ladies Retreat was an encouragement to many, Sierra has a "new" violin, the work on the Lodge is progressing well, Elayna got her braces off, God provided meat, and Ty is healthy!

Prayer: Winter Retreat planning, summer staff for 2023, continuing funds and volunteers for the Lodge rebuild, a successful elk hunt, a cello for Taylee, and finances for braces for Savannah and Sierra.

Serving in Wyoming,
Keith, Stacy,
Taylee, Sierra, Elayna,
Savannah, Vanessa, and Ty Holt

If God is leading you to support us on a monthly basis or with a one-time gift as we minister at Red Cliff Bible Camp, you can donate directly to the camp by mailing a check to Red Cliff Bible Camp, PO Box 846, Pinedale, WY 82941. You can designate it "For Holt's Support", and the camp will make sure it gets to us. (It is tax deductible!) Our PayPal account is now set up on our Staff page at redcliffcamp.org. Please note that PayPal does take a percentage of each donation we receive as their service fee.