

Hello and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Gerards!

We hope that you have had a wonderful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and above all the knowledge that Jesus entered this world as a baby with you in His mind and heart. Another year has flown by and here are a few highlights from our family!

Elijah- Is now 10 and had a big Star Wars themed birthday party to celebrate. He started learning how to code this year with a program called Scratch and has loved creating his own video games. His skill level is way past my own, so as he explains things to me I just smile, nod, and try to find another book at the library to help him out. His other past times still include Legos and drawing. A favorite memory from the year is: Getting his Cosmo robot as a birthday present.

Lily- Is 8 and in 2nd grade. She is such a great helper around the house, especially in the kitchen. Her specialty is baking brownies. She still loves everything to do with creation and has dreams of living in a tree house when she grows up. Her current favorite are horses (which she said she is saving up to buy even though she knows it will not fit in our backyard.) She has been able to go riding a couple of times and of course she is a natural. Her favorite memory of the year is: Collecting eggs every morning during our family vacation.

Ransom- is 4 and continues to keep us all on our toes. He has managed to split open his chin, which fortunately could be glued shut, and also to shove a lego up his nose (so far up they couldn't get it out in the ER and we had to go see a specialist). He loves to wrestle and play with his siblings. This is his first year as a part of our homeschool co-op Classical Conversations and it has been interesting to say the least. I never know week to week what I will get but we are figuring it out. A favorite memory for Ransom has been: playing in the backyard and learning how to climb trees and swing on the rings.

DeAnn- I have had an interesting and unexpected year. God continues to use my health to draw me to him and teach me. Back in February after struggling with dizziness for several months I got diagnosed with something called PPPD (basically I have migraine induced dizziness that just wouldn't stop). We are still trying to figure it out and I'm currently trying a new medication to treat it. We are in our 5th year of homeschooling and I still absolutely love our morning routine of singing, Bible study, and read-a-louds. I decided to tutor this year at our co-op and every Monday I have a class of 6-7 four-year olds (including Ransom) that I get to teach. When I have free time I still love to read, cook/bake and create. I am also trying my hand at gardening with a lot of help from my wise Sister-in-law (and Lily, who again, is a natural at it). A favorite memory for me is: our family vacation to Florida that was filled with friends, swimming, and animals.

Dan- Hit the big 4-0 this year and although I thought it was a big deal and tried to make it so, he took it in stride. He was gifted a couple of freediving courses and has loved practicing this new sport (as well as testing himself to see how long he can hold his breath for...he is up to over 5 min!) He still loves racquetball and tries to play a few times a week. A favorite memory from the year is: He says he didn't want to choose the same thing as me but the trip to Florida also topped his list!

The Spring semester begins soon and in two weeks our annual student winter conference takes place. Thanks for keeping our family and the ministry in your prayers. Much love!



Family photo booth at the Destino Christmas Party!

DeAnn

DeAnn and the Gerard family