

Merry Christmas to you from the Potts! Once again it's that wonderful time of year when we get to share our lives with you and let you know how important you are to us. With all the crazy things going on in the world, we welcome this season of focus on Christ and not the crisis.

This past year has been full of new experiences for us from Caleb biking without training wheels and rappelling through his first canyon to Hannah getting a snake for a pet. I've started quilting again and Bob has been honing his photography skills to capture all the fun things we do.



Bob and Lisa in Gold Strike Canyon



Caleb on his Two-Wheeler

In May we took our family on our first river trip together on the Green River through Labyrinth Canyon. We headed to Moab, Utah where we were joined by our good friends, Jim and Mari Germain. They brought their inflatable kayak and we rented an 18-foot raft for our family, food and gear. The day we planned to launch there was a terrific wind storm so we put the trip off a day and spent the first night in a motel (roughing it huh?) in nearby Green River, Utah. We launched the next day in perfect weather. We spent the next two nights and three days floating down the smooth

water of the Green River surrounded by the spectacular red cliffs of Labyrinth Canyon. After the first day we did not see another person until the takeout 45 miles downstream at Mineral Bottom in Canyonlands National Park. Along the way we set up camp in a different spot each afternoon and enjoyed taking short hikes and exploring this beautiful canyon country. The kids had a great time on the boat during the day playing games, watercolor painting and floating toy boats behind the raft. Sitting around the campfire every night and then going to sleep under starry skies with the river murmuring at your doorstep was just the best. I was the cook for the trip and enjoyed planning menus and putting my Dutch oven to good use. River trips truly combine the solitude of backpacking with the luxuries of car camping. We were so impressed with how our kids did that we are planning one for next year.



The Potts Crew on the Green River

but this time we are going to add a little more white water!

In August we spent a special time with Bob's family in Colorado at the Danhof Family Reunion. We stayed at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch and had a wonderful time.



Hannah with "Cowboy" the horse

Not only did we have a great time seeing everyone and getting reacquainted, we also had some new experiences as well. I went zip-lining for the first time (climbing the pole is the scariest part!).

Caleb had his first mini-golf game with Grandma Potts, and Hannah went on her first trail ride (on a horse named "Cowboy"). We also enjoyed hilarious skits and a wonderful hymn sings. It was truly a blessing to be with a family that made you feel like you were one step from heaven.

We also enjoyed a number of weekends camping and canyoneering in southern Utah and Arizona. Bob would often get up early in the morning and take Hannah on a photo shoot. She has taken over our old digital camera and enjoys these special times with Dad. On one of these fall weekends we joined our friends Chris and Kris England at their cabin near Zion for a fall color photo shoot. We were also joined by Wayne and Geri Kodey who own a camera shop here in Las Vegas and manage the Photo Services department at the University. Bob

enjoyed learning from the Kodey's as they explored and photographed some of Zion's spectacular back country and canyons. In the meantime I had a great time baking bread with Kris and hiking through the beautiful Zion fall colors. The kids had fun playing with Baylee England and finding treasures (Hannah found a coyote skull). Everyone had a great time and at the end of the weekend each of the photographers submitted their best photos and put together an impressive slide show of their work.

Some things have stayed the same though; we still enjoy the same wonderful home (we just rearrange the furniture periodically!) and Hannah and Caleb are

still attending Lake Mead Christian Academy where they are doing very well. Caleb is in K-4 and Hannah is now in 2nd grade. Bob still works at the Center



Caleb with his Grandpa Potts



Lisa Zip Lining in Colorado



Lisa and Hannah in Death Valley

for Business and Economic Research at the University and has been there more than 15 years. In light of the current times we are thankful for his good job. I still work at the school part-time, but this year I am in the kitchen making sandwiches and salads. I love working with food and it's nice to be near the kids.

All year we think of you and are thankful for our friends and family far and near. This letter is just a way to tell you how much we appreciate you. As always we would love to see you if you are in our area. Who knows, perhaps it would work out that you could join us for one of our adventures.

God's Best and Merry Christmas!



Bob and Lisa Mountain Biking in Cottonwood Valley

The Potts' Family



Lannah with her Dad on an early morning photo shoot in Zion



Lannah with her new pet



Caleb getting ready to rappel into his first slot canyon



Lannah in Labyrinth Canyon with her "Uncle" Jim Germain