

Once again we find ourselves reflecting on another amazing year for our family. This year has been just one in a string of 20 years of adventures here in Las Vegas. Looking back we are really thankful to God. Thanks for taking the time to let us share our lives with you.



Bob and Lisa getting ready to ride the Porcupine Rim Trail

The beginning of May we took a trip to Moab, Utah to see our friends Jim and Mari Germain and hang out at their bed and breakfast. We also took a one day float trip down the Colorado River with them. The water was fast moving and we ended up with two boats overturned (not ours). Thankfully no one was seriously hurt. Caleb was impressed with the rapids and later referred to one as a "black hole"! As we know, there is no adventure without some risk. Speaking of risk, Bob and I got to bike the famous Porcupine Rim trail while Mari kept an eye on the kids. It was an amazing ride and definitely stretched my mountain biking skills. There were parts of the ride where I was definitely doing a lot of praying!

A highlight of the year for our family was our summer trip to Rainier National Park in Washington state. Our big summer trip started on Aug. 1st as we headed northwest pulling our pop-up camper through Nevada, California and Oregon. Bob would be



Bob on his way down from his fifth successful Rainier summit



Lannah wearing Dad's mountain pack

leading the group of eight climbers and I would be the camp cook. It was great to be back in the big woods camping again. After meeting up with our group in Cougar Rock campground and setting up camp, Bob and the climbers started talking about the logistics of the climb. Weather is so important for the success of these adventures and it looked like a big storm was heading our way. After dinner the group started practicing crevasse rescue techniques in case any of them should fall into one of the many hidden crevasses found on the mountain. The plan was to do more mountaineering training the next day but they decided to head up the mountain and train on the way because of the approaching storm. The camp was busy until late with everyone getting their gear ready to go up the mountain. The climbers headed up the next morning but did not make it up to the high camp until late that day. After much deliberation the group decided to delay their summit attempt one day and do glacier training on the mountain in part because it looked like good weather would hold. They had a great day resting and training and felt much better prepared to attempt the summit that

next day. A God-given weather window was provided, so their summit day turned out to be the best weather day of all! It was a great climb with a great group. Seven of the eight climbers were able to get to the top. In the meantime the kids and I had a wonderful time manning the base camp. We had a scavenger hunt, made woodland crafts, traversed a log bridge across a rushing river, and took a hike through the big trees. We were glad to meet Dad as he came down the mountain the third day. We are so proud of him! On the way home we headed down the Oregon Coast for a little sight-seeing and a visit to Bob's Uncle John and Aunt Faye in Salem Oregon. We also spent a wonderful morning playing in the ocean and picking up shells. I loved it – what the high mountains are to Bob, the ocean is to me.

We were only back home a month before Bob headed off on another adventure – a 215 mile hut-to-hut mountain bike trip from Telluride, Colorado to Moab, Utah. Bob trained hard for this week long trip and really enjoyed the new bike he bought, in part, just for this trip. The huts are spaced a good day's ride

(about 30 miles) apart from each other and are fully stocked with everything from sleeping bags to cold beer. The only things you need to provide are yourself, the clothes on your back, and plenty of pedal power! This trip was a workout as most of the biking was done around 9,000 feet. Weather ranged from sunshine to rain, and of course lots of mud. The group consisted of Kim Kelsey, Bob, Kameron Kelsey (Kim's son) and Brian Zehr. Brian is the husband of a childhood friend of mine. Brian is from Indiana and is a cardiac/pulmonary specialist doctor. The guys joked that the main reason they had him on the trip was so he could stuff their lungs back in their chests after they coughed them up pumping so hard up the hills. Their group of four was joined by another group of four from Canada. There was some concern that packing eight sweaty bodies into a 16 foot by 16 foot hut every night would have been problematic – but it turned out to be a great time for all. Bob came back from this trip realizing that having just the clothes on your back and a really good ride to look forward to the next day was truly freedom. We welcomed our favorite guy home with a sign on the door that said



Biking down the Porcupine Rim trail



Lisa hiking Angels Landing in Zion National Park

“The Potts Hut” “Through this door passes the greatest adventurer the world over - Our Dad”.

Bob and I took a quick trip to Zion National Park the end of October. Zion is celebrating it's 100 year anniversary. It was natural to look back on our first trip to Zion 20 years ago. The summer before we were married we took a road trip in my '73 Toyota Celica through Zion, Lake Powell and the Grand Canyon. After looking through the Zion Park brochure Bob chose a hike for us – “Angels Landing”. It was the hardest hike on the list! Bob's hiking attire



Lisa starting her 300 foot rappel into Englestead Canyon



Caleb kayaking on the Colorado  
it wasn't!

consisted of jeans and a long sleeved western shirt. We didn't even have a backpack so we improvised one using Bob's duffel bag. When we got up to Scouts Lookout we sat down for a rest. We thought we were on top. As I stared upward, I noticed people on the razor backed, exposed, rock buttress above. I mentioned this to Bob, and we looked at each other and said "No way!" Just then a hiker with a baby in a pack waltzed past us up the trail. We decided to go for it! That exceptional hike was the beginning of our love affair with Zion. It was also the real beginning of our outdoor adventures. Now, back to our recent trip to Zion; after we hiked Angels Landing the next day, Bob commented that it didn't seem as extreme as twenty years before. In light of all our outdoor adventures since then,



Grandpa and Grandma Potts with us over Halloween

Speaking of extreme, Bob and I did get a chance to do a very challenging slot canyon this June with our friend Mike Brunson. The first rappel was 300 feet! Needless to say that made me nervous on the way down. After that, the canyon was a beautiful hike with a number of lesser rappels. It was a great day to be out together doing what Bob and I love to do.

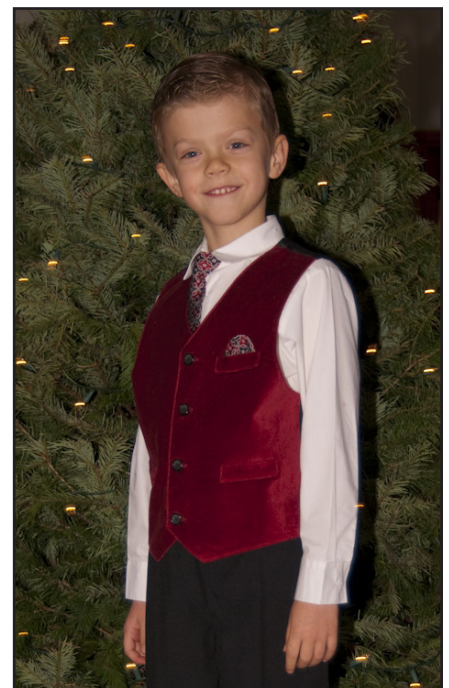
Our family also enjoyed leading a number group adventures this year from kayaking on the Colorado River to rock climbing at Keyhole Canyon.



Hannah in her Christmas play

It was, as always, great being out with friends in the outdoors. It was also great to have Hannah and Caleb with us on many of the outings this year. Bob and I are continually impressed how they "rise to the occasion" and exceed our expectations. Our annual kayak trip down the Colorado River through

Black Canyon turned out to be one of the windiest ones yet. The morning was beautiful, but in the afternoon a headwind really picked up and made the paddling very strenuous and sometimes even a bit insane just trying to keep your boat straight. Bob was the hero putting one of our kayakers in the boat with him and towing Hannah in the single kayak. I was so proud of our little 8 year old as she



Caleb all dressed up for his Christmas program

paddled hard to keep the boat straight behind Dad. It made for a memorable adventure – just one that we don't want to do again right away! Both Hannah and Caleb enjoyed our rock climbing and rappelling outings also. Hannah is gaining in confidence and turning into quite a climber. Caleb is all over any rocks and is as confident as a billy goat. His mom sometimes wonders about his judgement though. Good thing Dad is there to spot him! Biking has also been more and more fun with the kids. We took a family ride recently on the Old Railroad Bed Trail just outside Boulder City. It winds through old railroad tunnels overlooking Lake Mead to Hoover Dam. Caleb rode on the trail-a-bike behind Dad and Hannah cruised on her own bike. It sure brought me back to Bob and I biking that same trail a number of years ago with Hannah on my back in her frilled baby bonnet.



*Our Family on the Colorado River*

We were grateful to have visits from Bob's parents in the spring and the fall. We enjoyed their company and are so glad they are a part of our lives. Early next month we are looking forward to my folks coming for a visit. It will be great to see them as they escape the cold temperatures in Montana!

As for news from "base camp" (our house) – this is our third year at Lake Mead Christian Academy. I am working in the kitchen again part time while Caleb is in kindergarten and Hannah is in third grade. We are so thankful to be a part of such a great school. Bob and I were proud parents at the kids' Christmas programs. Hannah played a starring role in her Christmas production and Caleb looked so handsome in his suit. He loved having a tie of his own, just like Dad. Bob is in his twentieth year (that's hard to believe) at the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). He works hard doing data analysis and research for the benefit of the business community. He provides data and information to hundreds of people around the city, state and country every month. He has been an important and respected resource to many people over the years. This year it has been especially vital for him to be at CBER as his boss of twenty years, Keith Schwer, died just a few weeks ago of esophageal cancer. Bob has been the glue that has helped to hold his office together during this difficult time. Again, this has made us look back at the past 20 years here in Las Vegas with thankfulness for Bob's job. It has been a great place to "hang our hat" and we are grateful to God for all the adventures and wonderful friends He has provided.

Thank you all for being a part of our "blessed" life!

God's Best and Merry Christmas!

The Potts' Family