

Dear Friends & Family,

Christmas 2018

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Silver State! We have had an eventful and blessed year here at Potts' Base Camp and wanted to share some of our happenings with you!

This has been a "year of transition", as Hannah so aptly put it. Caleb has had a big year of change, moving from middle school into high school as a freshman at Sierra Lutheran. He is thoroughly enjoying it and has recently been quite busy taking on one of the leading roles in the school's fall play. Hannah is definitely in a year of transition as a high school senior. Her life is filled with "firsts" and "lasts" - the last football game, the last pep rally, as well as the first time driving her new car to school and the first college acceptance letter. She is very much involved in student government again this year as Student Body secretary and is also on the Academic Olympics team. Bob has had a busy year workwise with lots of speaking engagements locally and around the country. He has had the opportunity to travel around the country speaking to influential leaders giving them tools for meeting their economic challenges. It is amazing to me that he has risen to the place where he is a sought out public speaker! I am so proud of him and the skills he has developed over these past 28 years of our married life. In just the past 10 months he has spoken to groups in Reno, Las Vegas, Georgia, Wisconsin, Rhode Island and Idaho. In his off time he enjoys getting outside and doing projects around the house, one of which is rebuilding a used pop-up camper he bought in our neighborhood that he plans on selling next spring. On or off the job, he truly earns his family name of "Mr. Fix-it"! Though his job at the Governor's Office of Economic Development is not directly tied to Nevada's recent change in leadership, the changes are sure to affect his job and his focus. All these changes bring with them a mixed bag of emotions for all of us, but they have also made me realize my importance as



Our family hiking Freel Peak, the highest mountain in the Tahoe Basin



Lisa snowshoeing near Lake Tahoe

the "hub of the wheel" in keeping our family connected and everything rolling along smoothly. In and through it all we are so thankful for how the infant King born all those years ago is still the true manager of our family and all the universe!

As we look back over a busy 2018 with many small trips to school, church, work, Target and Home Depot (all of which are thankfully within a five minute drive from our house), there were also a couple of big trips that we thought we'd share with you. On April 2nd, Hannah and a group of eight students from our church youth group boarded a plane for an 11-hour flight to Ireland for a youth mission trip. This was Hannah's first jaunt overseas and she had an amazing time. The group flew to Dublin, Ireland and were met by Ben and Doreen Linn, a missionary couple supported by our church. While there, the young people and two youth leaders worked with underprivileged children in Dublin through a Head Start type program for 10 days. In their

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Hannah hiking above the Irish Sea while on her mission trip to Dublin

free time they had a wonderful time tramping around the Irish countryside, exploring museums and cathedrals, eating Irish food and laughing themselves silly! They were housed at a Christian retreat center some 20 miles from Dublin, so they spent plenty of time riding trains back and forth to Dublin. The trip was a



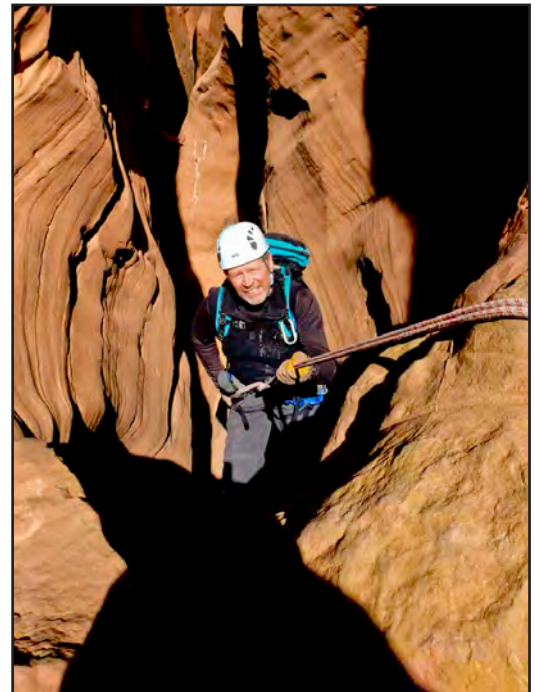
Mike Brunson and Bob in Arches National Park



Bob tossing off the rappel line in Zion National Park

Utah and enjoyed it so much that they were itching to do it again. Their chance came April 14-21. Bob flew into Las Vegas where Mike picked him up from the airport and they headed straight for one of our favorite places, Zion National Park. They set up camp in Zion, got permits, and headed up the next morning "before the crow pees" (as Bob says) to the trailhead of Mystery Canyon. After hiking up five miles of switchbacks with amazing views of Zion's towering red and white sandstone walls to Observation Point, they dropped into a steep and treacherous section often referred to as "Death Gully". At this point the canyon narrows and the fun begins. Twelve rappels later they came to the final rappel over a 110 foot ledge that drops through a waterfall into the famous narrows of the Virgin River. All-in-all a spectacular ride! After that it was road tripping, hiking, and canyoneering through a thousand miles of monolithic Utah backcountry filled with amazing views and great moments. The guys also made a special point of canyoneering through Bluejohn Canyon made famous by the movie 127 Hours. Their road trip included stops in all five of Utah's national parks and was a wonderful time for these two great friends.

Speaking of special times, on



Bob on rappel in Bluejohn Canyon

June 10th our family loaded up our pop-up camper, grabbed the puppy, and headed east on the Loneliest Highway in America, Highway 50. After a beautiful drive across the Silver State we arrived at Great Basin National Park where we were joined by a number of our friends from Las Vegas and Carson City. Joining us were Alex Heindl, Frank & Erin Nason, Phil & Kathryn Spargo from Las Vegas and Chris England who now also lives in Carson City (sadly, our good friends Jim & Mari Germain had to leave the campground early due to electrical trouble with their camper). After a brief stop at the visitor's center we found

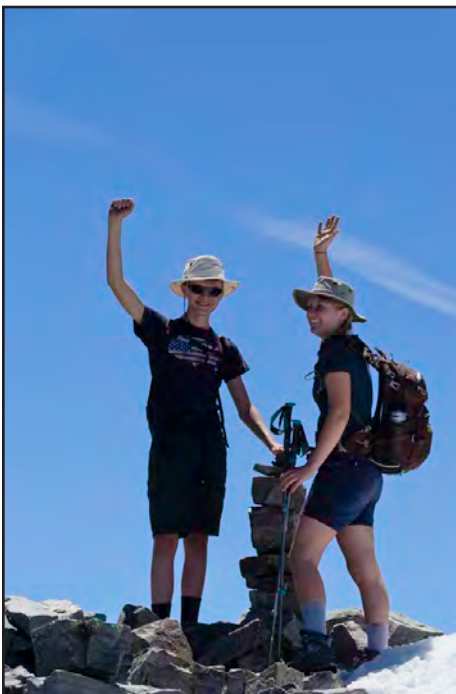


Caleb leading the group while hiking to the summit of Wheeler Peak

some great campsites grouped together amidst the shimmering aspens and gurgling streams and set up our "camp city" in Upper Lehman campground (named after Absalom Lehman, who discovered and then developed the caves beginning in 1885). Great Basin National Park is one of the Least visited National Parks and offers many great things to see and do. Top among them are Lehman Caves, an extensive underground cave system; Wheeler Peak, the second highest peak in Nevada; and the park's exceptional night sky views, earning it a designation as an international Dark Sky Park. On that point, we were fortunate to have our friend Alex Heindl along because of his extensive knowledge of the stars and the big telescopes he brought along to see them through. All of this and more makes Great Basin National Park a wonderful place to visit.



Our camping group in Lehman Caves



Caleb and Hannah on the summit of Wheeler Peak (13,065 feet)

One of the first things we did after arriving at the park was to go on a tour of Lehman Caves. We had all reserved space on the ranger led, Palace Cave tour and enjoyed the explanation and history of the fantastical world under our feet. Lehman caves has hundreds of rare formations like "Cave Shields" and "Cave Bacon" along with countless stalactites and stalagmites. After this wonderful tour Bob, Chris and Hannah had a fun time in an ice cream shop at the cave entrance where they coaxed the waitress into making an ice cream "stalactites" and "stalagmites" out of soft serve ice cream. Gales of laughter could be heard when one after another of the "stalactites" plopped onto the "stalagmite" and flowed over onto the counter as the ice cream dish was turned upside down!

The next day the group (minus Erin Nason who graciously offered to "dog sit" Christy) donned our packs and hiking boots and headed up the Wheeler Peak trailhead. The day was beautiful with blue skies and barely any wind. The first leg of the trail wound through groves of aspen past beautiful high mountain lakes. Then it made its way up through bristlecone pines and tiny "krummholz" trees to the talus fields covering the upper slopes of Wheeler Peak. The final section of this amazing hike was an extended scramble over large talus blocks, winding its way past snowfields to the summit at 13,065 ft. It was a great moment for Bob and I as we watched Caleb and Hannah, who we had carried up many mountains on our backs, charge ahead of us on the last push to the summit. It brought tears to my eyes. As I gave Bob a high five I felt that somehow he and I had passed a test and moved up to the next level. I am truly grateful for God being with us every step of the way!

The next day, feeling a bit tired and sore, Caleb and I hung out in camp while Bob and Hannah, the Spargos, Frank and Erin, and Alex went on a beautiful, 5.9 mile hike up Timber Creek and down Baker Creek. This day ended up being a highlight for them, filled with amazing alpine views, meadows full of wildflowers, and gurgling streams through aspen choked canyons.

Throughout the week we had great times in camp just hanging out, soaking in the creek, playing horseshoes and board games, telling stories and sharing meals and cocktails. Every day in Great Basin was memorable like gems on a necklace. The trip was such a great time that there's already talk of doing it again - so stay tuned!

As the writer of the Christmas letter, I can tell we've been having a good year when I've only reached the middle of June and have run out of space! Therefore, I will just briefly mention some of our year's other great adventures. June 22-24 Bob and Caleb spent an exciting father/son weekend river

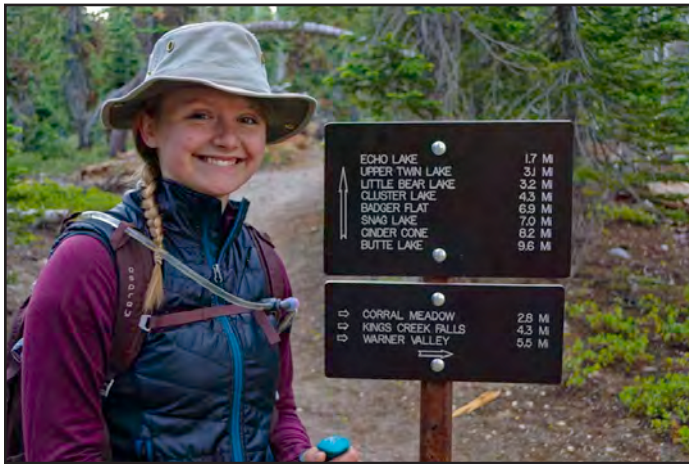


Hiking through the alpine meadows of Great Basin National Park

rafting some class IV rapids in northern California with a group of fathers and sons from our church. They had an awesome time together. Then July 15-18 our whole family enjoyed a campout in Lassen National Park. Bob and Hannah hiked 13.4 miles from our campsite to Butte Lake and Caleb and I did something I had wanted to do for a long time - climb the Cinder Cone volcano in the remote north east corner of Lassen. In August, Hannah had the privilege of spending a week in Montana with her Grandpa and Grandma Potts. She loved her time with Grandpa doing crafts and being silly and hanging out with Grandpa and going fishing with him. What a blessing! Speaking of blessings - September was a whirlwind of blessings for Bob that included a trip to Montana to see his parents at the beginning of the



Bob and Caleb rafting the Middle Fork of the American River



Hannah while hiking with Bob in Lassen National Park

sagebrush with snow capped peaks in the distance; watching a full harvest moon rise over the desert as we drove into town; and tramping around the historic mining town of Tonopah together. I loved staying in the renovated 110 year old hotel, "The Mizpah" in downtown Tonopah. The word "Mizpah" comes from Genesis 31:49 in the Bible and means "May God watch over you and me when we are absent from each other." Actually, that sums up our prayer for all of us this year. No matter where the dust settles from the winds of change, it is our firm belief that God will watch over us and bring the best. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with that same certainty in all the opportunities, changes and challenges you face.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,

The Potts family & Christy

Bob & Lisa

*Hannah
Caleb*

month in conjunction with a conference in Couer d'Alene, Idaho. Then Bob and his Uncle Jim Danhof had an intense couple days together September 15-16 which included box seats at the NASCAR races in Las Vegas AND front row seats at the National Championship Air Races in Reno - all in the same weekend! At the end of September, Bob and I enjoyed a three day getaway to Tonopah, NV. Bob was teaching a class there and I opted to go along with him. We enjoyed our time away; the drive across the wilds of Nevada through rolling hills of



Bob and his Uncle Jim at the Reno Air Races

P.S. We would love to have you visit us in this amazing area we are blessed to call home - just give us a call. P.P.S You can visit us anytime at www.pottsadventures.com and check out all of our family's adventures.



Caleb at his 8th Grade Graduation



Lannah and her boyfriend Tristan going to Prom



Bob visiting his parents in their new home



First day of High School



Our High School Senior



Caleb as Algernon Moncrieff in the Oscar Wilde play "The Importance of Being Earnest"



Our family out snowshoeing



Lisa and Bob on a beautiful ski day above Lake Tahoe



Lisa taking Christy for a ride on Great Grandma Potts' fully refurbished bike



Our family with Uncle Jim at the Reno Air Races



Hannah with her Grandpa out fishing in Montana



Hannah and her new SUV