

Merry Christmas 2015 from the Soley Family!

Dearest family and friends,

Wow! 2015 has been, as we affectionately call it, 'the year of opportunity'. We are abundantly grateful for each 'opportunity' this year has afforded. We are all growing together, in love, virtue, character, and in faith. God is incredibly good to us! We celebrated Christmas and the New Year close together as we were in quarantine from the flu. It was a beautiful time of quiet and togetherness. We were also blessed with some interesting health complications for me, which kept us on our knees (along with our dear friends and family) throughout 2015. We witnessed countless miracles along our journey as a direct result of God's generosity through the prayers, gifts, love, and sacrifices of many beautiful souls. We truly praise God for His generosity through each of you. Thank you.

Nate – Shouldering the world with God's grace, his 2015 was CRAZY! He managed to keep it all together and, with God's grace, was busy enough at work to keep the happy Soley compound afloat! When my health permitted and our family was reunited, he helped to create many beautiful memories. We had several family days on the lake, where Captain Nate thrilled the children with his exhilarating boating skills (tubing, wake boarding, and surfing)! He made a slip and slide out of the boat lift canopy on a warm fall afternoon for the children; complete with dish soap for extra slipperiness. Even Mary joined in the crazy fun. He is still DJ Jazzy Nate, pumping up the EDM jam for the Soley family dancers. We all behave like children, clubbin' at 103 Wilson.



All is well with me. 2015 has afforded me such beautiful grace. I think the most powerful memory I can share is the dinner I enjoyed at home with my family, after having been away from them for over six weeks. As I sat around the dinner table, looking at Nate, and each of the beautiful gifts God has provided through the love we share, I thought to myself how much I love each child. Each is so different, but in a sense, consumes my entire heart with love for him or her. I then realized how much more our Heavenly Father must love us and how it is possible for Him to love us such that we feel like His only child. I also celebrate the time I enjoyed with my Mom, though separated from my family, I was blessed with my Mom. One of my least favorite memories was when the big three (Andrew, William, & Libby) beat me in arm wrestling, this is an outrage and there will be a comeback. I cherish each memory of this past year, the trying and joy-filled ones. This perfect combination is what brings peace, joy, gratitude and love. I love being a wife and mother, and pray for the privilege to do so as long as He allows.



Andrew, 14 – Teenager, yes, he is really a teenager. He has joined the cyberworld (oy vey!) and when allowed, he enjoys texting, snapchatting, and talking with his friends. He just got braces and will be able to appreciate them until about his sixteenth birthday. He enjoyed driving the boat and Jet Ski this summer and generously gave lots of rides to his siblings and cousins. He is still active in Boy Scouts and loves the campouts! We are all blessed by his talent on the piano. During our morning exercises, Ms. Mary likes to climb onto his back during his push-ups and sits on his lap during our wall-sits. Andrew is unbelievably good to his little sister; he is good to all of us. He is helping more in the kitchen and has made some creative and delicious items. He is growing into an amazing young man.



William, 12 – This young man is a natural comedian. He makes many a laugh in our happy home with his creative jokes and pranks. He too, enjoys Boy Scouts and the campouts. Along with Andrew, he has joined the world of texting, and loves it! He is busy writing some creative computer applications and does so any chance he is allowed. He also enjoys building cool creations with his erector set. As with all the children, they are my warden, trying to keep my workload at home to a minimum. William is the first to remind me to sit down and generously volunteers to accomplish the task at hand. He is also growing into a delightful young man.



Libby, 10 – O how she loves her gymnastics and is rarely found right-side-up; ever. She works diligently on advancing at her club, and her motivation and commitment are inspiring. I often times find her at the pull-up bar. She, through Nana Bogema, discovered Sudoku and loves it. She also has written some entertaining MadLib pieces. Lib is helpful and motivated in the kitchen and when given the chance, will prepare an entire, delicious meal. She is a natural mother to her younger siblings and has a beautiful, caring and generous heart for them; for all of her siblings really.

Charlie will be 9 in January – Charlie can be described as LEGO brick master. If he is awake and finished with school, he is designing



and building imaginative and exciting creations. He is generous with his creations as well; giving some as gifts. He loves to color, especially Avengers and Ninjago characters. He is determined to increase his muscle mass and loves the new pull-up bar! He still loves to fish and between swimming and fishing, a happy summer was had by Charlie. He too is certain to take on any of my work when he sees me working harder than Nate has allowed. He is a talented hip-hop dancer and is constantly taking my breath away with the acrobatics he incorporates into his routines. His favorite musical artist is Toby Mac. He is thoughtful, kind and ever in awe of his big brothers. He looks to them with such admiration.

Thomas George (T.G.) will be 7 on Christmas Eve - If ever I am in need of a hug, Thomas is my man! He showers affection on all of



us. He is joyful and lovable, all wrapped in the most adorable blond hair and blue eyes. He reminds me of my Dad. One morning he came into our bedroom and exclaimed, "I know it is a cereal day, so I set the table for you Mom, so you don't have to!" He loves video games and has a natural talent for athletics. When Nate plays football with the children, Thomas is aggressive and not afraid to go against the big boys. I need to cover my eyes at times. He too, loves to dance. When we play 'Just Dance' together, Thomas rocks the house! His smile is intoxicating as it lights his whole person from head to toe.

Patrick will be 5 in January – Somehow things just break around Patrick. He explains that it happened, "Accidentally on purpose!" He is perfectly behaved for his age and his honesty is humbling at times. When Mom (Nana Bogema) and I arrived home the first afternoon having been away for over six weeks, he hugged Nana's leg with all of his strength and exclaimed, "Oh Nana, thank you *so* much for bringing my mommy home!" It was just beautiful. That is Patrick. He too loves Legos and is constantly asking Charlie to fix the creations that he accidentally on purpose breaks. He wants to be a police officer when he grows up. His prayers are just beautiful, as he prays for each of us, and for my restored health (and hair).

Mary Frances (the Goosh) - will be 3 on January 2nd – Some Mary-isms we won't soon forget are, "I don't wike it, "Its cweepy!",



"It's so adowable", "Actually, no!", "Just Kitting! Ha ha!" She can be seen holding one hand on her hip while pointing her finger on the other hand, accompanied with a minor head tilt; speaking with great authority. That's when we remember who is in charge around here; or at least who THINKS she's in charge. She loves the Gummy Bear song; she dances, and dances, and dances. We can cajole her into wearing anything as long as we preface it with the word 'princess' (let's put on your princess pants, pj's, etc.). One evening on one of the Tuesdays we enjoy at my Mom's house, Mary was caught heaving, with all of her strength, the toy stroller down the stairs. When Mom caught her in this incriminating act, Mary looked at her with excitement in her eyes and exclaimed, "That was *awesome!*" It's like she has five older brothers or something.

Our family is grateful for family and friends like you. He continues to help us grow "together" and even closer to Him as we celebrate His incarnation and the hope of what He is to bring in 2016. Thank you being a part of it!

Love - The Soley Family – Nate & Kristen, Andrew, William, Libby, Charlie, Thomas-George, Patrick, Mary-Frances & Angel (our kitty)

**Original photos by Tina Fisher Photography (I cropped them to make them fit).*

