

To our dear family and friends,

I pray this letter finds you and yours well! We are doing well at our happy little home! Nathan and I are very grateful for each of our little blessings. Andrew turned 8 this month, William is 6, Libby is 4 ½, Charlie will be 3 in January and Thomas will celebrate his 1st birthday this Christmas Eve. Last Christmas Nathan and I were fortunate enough welcome our little Thomas George Soley. What an amazing time to have a baby! We brought our little bundle of joy home in a baby-sized stocking!

Andrew is growing so quickly; he loves being the oldest, as he is pretty sure that he is 3rd in charge in our home. He loves creating with his Legos and Bionicles and light sabre dueling. William loves setting up dominoes, light sabre dueling, and playing with his brothers and sister! Libby loves to dance around the house, color and do puzzles. Charlie loves every tool known to mankind. He loves to “fix” things and is constantly trying to confiscate Nate’s screwdrivers and drills. In the midst of pandemonium and chaos in our home, he will start to sing “Happy Birthday”, which usually makes us all stop, and smile! Our little Thomas can wave and say “bye- bye” and “uh oh”; he is threatening to walk and can climb stairs (with Daddy’s help)! All of the kids beg to play with Thomas and to see them make him laugh and perform tricks is brings us such joy!

Much of last winter was spent outside! Nathan rigged up a boom behind the 4-wheeler to pull 3 kids at a time on sleds on the lake! The memories of screams and squeals of joy still bring a smile to my face. The kids went sledding daily down our little hill and our neighbor’s scary, big hill! Every outside adventure was warmed-up with hot cocoa. Thomas and I had the good fortune of visiting Nana Bogema in Fountain Hills, AZ for a long weekend; Thomas even enjoyed the chic time!

Spring was beautiful as ever here! Libby started gymnastics and absolutely loved it. It was fun to watch her, I wanted to join in the fun, then remembered my age. We lost George III in the spring (our froglet)... George I (our tadpole) was a mutant who didn’t grow back legs and ultimately died, George II arrived deceased and George III, after lovingly raising him to almost full size, was introduced into the big fish tank, where he was promptly eaten by our other frog... tragic...

Summer was a blast. We went for long walks and the kids enjoyed swimming and fishing with family and friends. The kids loved playing with Nana & Grandpa Soley each time they came to visit! We found a cool dirt track in Arlington and the boys showed their true grit and took some good diggers on their mountain bikes there! The newest stunt learned over the summer was “scooter jumping” off the dock. Our friends the Nederbrocks brought that fun idea all the way from North Carolina; I even have Nate and Andrew on film jumping their scooters off the dock! Our family enjoyed spending time at the flying field, where Nathan was able to enjoy his RC airplanes and some good fellowship with his RC buddies. He worked very hard over the summer for the RC Club and is making it a wonderful club for families.

We had a few friendly pets to care for over the summer months; 1 baby snapping turtle (“snappy” according to Charlie), 2 painted turtles (each named Sponge Bob) and several northern leopard .

We took our first “official” family vacation this year. We headed North to Duluth and, by the grace of God, had a wonderful time. The lake was beautiful and the scenery and tourist attractions were perfect for our busy little family. We were grateful to be traveling with our friends the Uttechs (our kids love them!). We also spent some quality time at local apple orchards this fall. Nate took the boys to “The Bug Guy” and they held a tarantula, ate worms and got cozy with scorpions (now the boys would like a pet tarantula – YIKES)!! Libby enjoyed another session of gymnastics as well. Charlie made friends with the crickets (“trickets” he affectionately calls them).

Nearly every night is brought to a close at the Soley house with a rousing game of “Charge”, wherein all of the kids, including Libby try to take Nate down. The kids LOVE this, so does Nate!

All in all, Nathan and I are grateful for each other, our family and friends, good health and another year of great memories!

May you have a very Merry Christmas and many blessings to you in 2010!

Nate & Kristen & Co. (Andrew, William, Libby, Charlie & Thomas)