
GREG GARDNER FAMILY 2007



Here we are in December and guess what? We live in the same house, in the same town, we have the same jobs, Trevor is in the same school, Trevor plays hockey still, Irja manages Trevor's hockey team still, Greg still sings in the church choir, cants the liturgy and does a lot of solo work, he is still attending Virginia Tech taking online classes for his Master's degree. A whole lot of sameness going on. It fell well, how should I say kind of, um...boring?????? Nah....it is different and yet at the same time nice.

So what did we do in this year of SAMENESS??? I didn't say we just stayed home the whole time.....

Winter season in Minnesota means hockey. Did we ever do a lot of hockey!!! Trevor's team capped off their year winning a hockey tournament in Edina, Minnesota by beating three metro city teams with tremendously larger hockey programs. The Team trophy is proudly displayed prominently at the local hockey arena.

Spring and summer means fishing. Did we ever do a lot of fishing!!!! Living two blocks from Lake Minnetonka means you can easily run down to the lake and fish for 30-45 minutes – or more every day if you want. We caught more fish (big ones too) than we thought possible. Fishing was fantastic until August and then I think the fish decided not to play the game any more.

Trevor also played lacrosse on a team from Minnetonka and continued his violin studies during spring.

Fall means football. Trevor played tackle football for the first time ever. He was a running back and defensive back. Trevor is not the most physical kid so tackle football was a challenge. Even so, he did get to carry the ball a few times and make a few tackles. The experience was well worth the effort.

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Throughout the year Trevor was very involved in Boy Scouts, camping and serving the community and just plain old having a good time. He attended Concordia Language Villages German Camp for one week, visited Gramma and Grampa Hanson in Bozeman, MT (side-trip to Yellowstone National Park) and Gramma and Grampa Gardner in Williston, ND. Busy boy.

Jarrell and Che both visited us this year. Che brought her boyfriend to meet the family. She still talks to us and is coming for Christmas so that evidently went well. I guess that means Dad behaved himself!!!! Jarrell spent a good portion of the summer with us and did a lot of work around the house. He decided after a summer of manual labor that the Air Force looks like a great option for him after he graduates from high school this next spring. We are very excited for the possibilities that will present him. Jarrell joined us for a family camping trip outside of Pelican Rapids, MN and family bible camp north of Duluth, MN.

Just because there was a lot of SAMENESS does not mean we didn't change anything. Greg had Lasik surgery in May and thoroughly enjoys the freedom of no glasses. The really BIG news though, is Irja and Greg lost over 100 lbs combined! They are not nearly as BIG as they used to be. Both of them feel a lot better about themselves both physically and emotionally.

Finally, we are happy to report that our daughter Che'Ante finally finished high school in December. We are so very proud of her as she stayed the course and completed this momentous achievement. She has decided to participate in Graduation ceremony for her high school next May. We'll tell you all about our trip to Colorado in next year's letter. We will also be attending Jarrell's high school graduation in Everett, Washington next June.