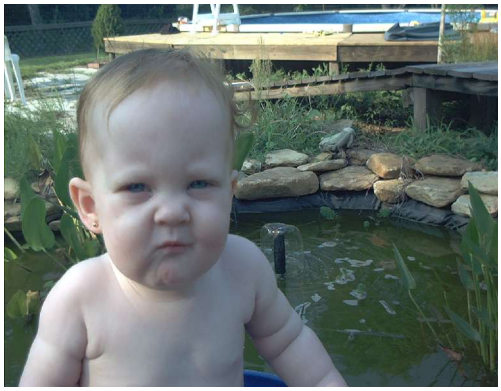
Family News

December 15, 2003



Hello to all from Sunny Florida! Its December and that means I take a few moments of your time to bring you up to date on our family. Let me begin by saying our family is very scattered. Justinn is going to college at Southeastern Louisanna. Perry, Michelle, and Taylor have moved into their brand new home. TJ is in Kansas while his wife, Tiffany is serving our country near Baghdad, Iraq. Marc is our only child living at home, and at 17 he is not a child any more!



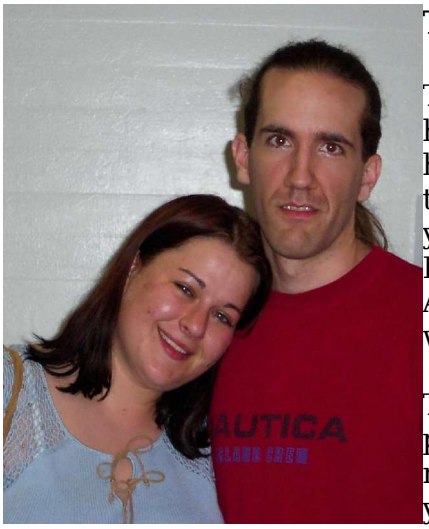
Taylor is now one year and a half. She is getting too big for the bucket I used to put her in when she and I would feed the fish in the pond in our back yard. Here is a photo from the beginning of last summer with Taylor in her bucket. Notice the new deck around the pool that Perry bought for his Mom and built last May!

Kathy, Marc, and I celebrated July 4th by leaving the country. We drove into Canada while visiting Niagra Falls on our vacation. Here is some free advice: if you leave the United States make sure you have a photo id so that you can get back in. One of us forgot to bring a driver's license and had a hard time crossing the border. It was touch and go, but we all finally managed to get back safely. I will not give the name of who forgot their license, but his initials are MG.

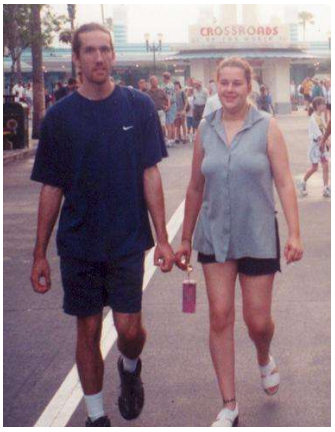
We were able to spend the night (on the American side) and see spectacular fireworks and a fantastic color light show. We had a great time including the balloon ride Marc and I took way above the falls.



On the way home we were able to spend three days with the Adams family. I highly recommend staying with Wayne and Dawn. The food is great and the price is very cheap (as in free). But a word of warning, if they stop pouring coffee for you that means its time to go. Their pastor is good at giving sublte hints. You had to be there to understand.



TJ – 26 yrs old:



TJ and Tiffany were able to come home for the Bailey Family Reunion here this past June. It was the first time we had seen them in over a year. They have been living in Kansas up until this past August. In August Tiffany, who is in the Army, was sent to Baghdad and TJ is in KS.

The photo on the left was taken this past June and the picture on the right was taken when we all went to Disney World four years ago. This past October TJ and Tiffany celebrated their third wedding anniversary (unfortunately they were in different countries).



Kathy hung a yellow ribbon in a tree in our front yard. She will leave it there until Tiffany returns home to us. I took this photo of the tree and thought it was special with the light shining on the ribbon.

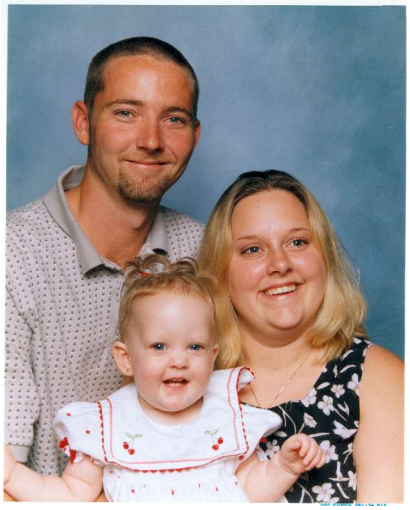
Perry – 23 yrs old:

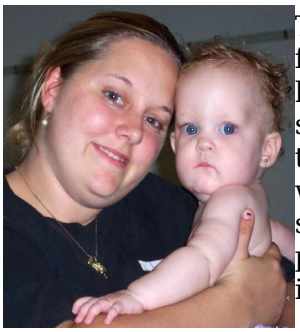


Perry, Michelle, and Taylor are enjoying their new house. They are just a few hundred feet from a big lake complete with a nice park that has swimming, a playground, tables, and grills.

They are both wonderful parents and they are giving Taylor a great start in life. Perry works in Freeport and is a big Nascar fan. He is pretty good with a guitar and his quick wit and great sense of humor makes him fun to be around. I have to admit I used to have my worries about him, but no more.

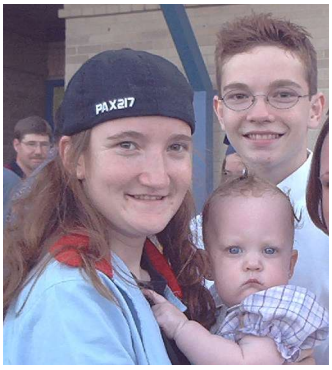
One thing about Perry that I am very proud of is his choice for a wife! As we have gotten to know Michelle I have seen her show patience and love for her family and know Perry made a great choice. She is a wonderful person and we are truly blessed to have her as part of our family. I cannot imagine a better mother for our granddaughter!





Kathy and I (I mostly <g>) love to spoil Taylor. Perry and Michelle give us a lot of freedom (most of the time). But no matter how much I bribe Taylor I cannot get her to stop watching Nascar races. One of the first things they did after moving into the house was to get a pool table for the garage. Perry said he was going fix it up and sell if for a profit. It sure is taking him a long time to fix it up!

Justinn – 20 yrs old:



Justinn began the year with a good accident. She totaled her car on the way to church last February in an accident that was not her fault. She hit a bridge and spundown the hill near the creek below the bridge. We call it a good accident because God watched over her and with seatbelts and airbags kept her safe.

She finished her first year at our local community college and decided to move to Roseland, Louisianna where she is living and working on a Christian Youth Ranch. She is the first one in our family to attend a four year university and we are very proud of her.



She has been playing a guitar for several years and this year she has learned to play the bass guitar. She plays each week with a band at her church. Recently she cut her hair for the first time in her life. She has had her hair trimmed in the past, but never cut, until now. She gave her hair to locks of love which is a program that makes wigs for kids with cancer. I think she looks great with short hair especially knowing that there is some young girl out there somewhere with pretty long red hair. The photo to the right was taken after her haircut with her new friend Gabbie.





Marc – 17 yrs old:

Marc began working last year at a local super market. He worked through the summer up until it was time to begin school. He saved his money and bought his first car (photo above). He is driving to school and is enjoying his last year of high school. He will be our fourth child to graduate. It does not matter how many times our kids are seniors it is still hard to get used to the idea. It was just a couple of years ago Marc was always the shortest one in the family. In fact on an application for camp a couple of years ago when they asked for any handicaps he wrote "I'm too short". Thats not true any more!

He and I play tennis as often as we can and he has learned the secret to beating me by making me run until I give out. Too bad the same strategy does not work for him in chess. He plans to try out for the tennis team this year and I can vouch for his ability! He continues to sing and spends a lot of time on the phone and computer with his friends. He plans to attend our local community college after high school. I was going through old photos of Marc for his school year book and found these where he is both cowboy and indian!









What a difference 15 years makes!!!

Merry Christmas and may God Bless You!

The Gipsons
1963 Juniper Lake Road
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433







In case you have not noticed our Granddaughter, Taylor made every page of this year's newletter. We are very proud of her and plan to continue to spoil her. She celebrated her first birthday this past June.

Email: **tomgip@yahoo.com**

Online version: www.atfar.com/fn