

# The Morris Chronicle

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*Dear Family and Friends,*

*We are back this year after a one-year hiatus -- we never did get around to putting our Christmas letter together last year. We are glad to be back this year, and to get to share with you all that has been going on in our lives.*

*This has been a big year for Taylor, who started Kindergarten this year. She loves school. She has her own alarm clock, and gets up by herself when it goes off at 6:45 am each morning (we hope that keeps up for a while!). She is learning how to read, and has made lots of good friends. She loves her teacher, Ms. Goolsby. We love her, too, and in fact, she went to the same church as us when we were in College Station, and she even kept Taylor in the nursery as an infant!! Taylor has also enjoyed the running she does in her gym class. Last*

*weekend, she ran a whole mile at the "Jingle Bell Fun Run", and finished 7<sup>th</sup> place out of about 90 Kindergarten girls. Outside of school, she takes ballet and tap dance classes, and this year has started gymnastics. She is very sensitive, analytical, and focused (I wonder where she gets these from?). When we are watching her at gymnastics class, she often doesn't even notice us because she is so focused on what she is doing.*

*Brooke has also started school this year -- she is going two mornings a week to a Pre-K3 class at "World of Wonder". She also enjoys school, and has made lots of new friends. She's working hard to keep up with her big sister. Even though she is 19 months younger, she thinks she should be able to do everything Taylor can do. On Tuesdays, she stays*

after school and takes a music class called “Mini Maestros”, where they



learn rhythm and play instruments. She is also taking gymnastics class this year. She is energetic and loving, and enjoys an audience. Unlike Taylor, Brooke always notices whenever we are watching, and keeps turning around and waving at us. She loves princesses, and still loves animals. Her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday party was a “princess and animal party” – we had a petting zoo at the party, but she still wanted a princess cake.



Dana continues to stay at home with the girls, and is also very active both at church, and now in Taylor’s school. Up until recently, she co-taught our adult Sunday School class, and also works with children in the Awanas program. She also helps out a lot at Taylor’s school, helping Ms. Goolsby put materials together for classroom projects, and going into school on Tuesdays to help students learn to read.

Jeff is still enjoying his work at MD Anderson, and his research continues to go well. In November, he was given a “Faculty Scholar Award” by MD Anderson for his research. He is up for promotion this year and, if successful, will be an Associate Professor with tenure as

of next September. He also teams up with Dana in working with children in the Awanas program at church, and is coaching 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys in the Upwards basketball league.



He also did lots of traveling for work this year – with trips to Pittsburgh, Boston, Connecticut, Toronto, Chile, and Australia. Dana came along on our trip to Pittsburgh, where we also got to see Jeff’s stepsister Amy, her husband Mark and their new little boy Robby. Also, she came on the Australia trip, which was for a conference that serendipitously started just after July 9<sup>th</sup>, which was our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We stayed for an extra week on our trip, and saw crocodiles, koalas and kangaroos, hiked in the Daintree tropical rainforest, and dived and snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef. It was a great time – sort of a second honeymoon

As always, we thank God for all of the blessings He has provided in our lives. We thank Him for the good times we have, and we also thank Him for his presence and comfort during the hard times. Most of all, we thank Him for the hope we have in Jesus, as we remember His birth, life, death, and resurrection this Christmas season.

God bless you and your family this  
Christmas!!

Jeff, Dana, Taylor and Brooke  
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P.S. Come see us in Houston!!!