

McLain Family Newsletter

Christmas 2024

Jerry, Christopher, Jeremy, Jessica, Camille, Robert and Samantha

Special points of interest:

- > Brad is promoted to 11am and noon news producer at KXAN-TV in Austin.
- > Anthony and McKenna are busy with the Harrold school athletic boosters.
- > Teresa got a new van after hitting a deer in her Honda.
- > Brad got a new SUV and Jerry Pennartz got Brad's old truck.

Yellowstone & Japan & Georgia &

Jeremy and Camille took a long awaited trip to Japan in October. They have been wanting to visit Japan for years and this was the perfect time.

Jerry and Aunt Teresa got to keep Sammie while they were away.

Jerry, Jerry P., Teresa, Brad, Anthony and McKenna took an early fall trip to visit Yellowstone National Park. They spent a week in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, seeing the natural wonders there.

They learned that geysers stink with sulfur and Jerry almost took an 84 foot fall into a canyon while getting the perfect photo of a waterfall.

Also, Christopher, Jessica and Robert took their own trips to Georgia and Wisconsin during the summer. They visited family and friends, including Marty, Megan and Madge

Pike. Jessica and Robert attended a memorial service for her grandmother who passed away in August.

That doesn't even include Teresa's trips to Mount Rushmore and Utah and Christopher's trip to Africa.

Quite a lot of travel....



Yellowstone.



Was it worth falling 84 feet to get this picture? Jerry thought so.



Jeremy and Camille in Japan.



Camille wears a kimono while Jeremy eats real Japanese ramen.



Old Faithful.



Robert and Madge Pike go shopping.

Samantha celebrates first birthday

Sammie celebrated her birthday in May. She enjoyed cake, balloons and got a splash table from Aunt Amaris and a car from Grandpa Sir.

care is lunch, where she cleans up extra food that the other kids refuse to eat.



She likes the water and had a great time July 4 at Aunt Carol and Uncle Alec's pool.



The birthday girl.

She started to walk this summer and has a growing vocabulary.

Her favorite time at day



From left, Aunts Amaris and DeLilah, Grandma Cheryl, Jeremy, Camille and Sammie



Sammie drives her car.

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Samantha spends a week at Aunt Teresa's



This means "MORE!" in Sammie talk and gets used a lot during snacks and meals..

Sammie spent a week in Vernon in the fall while Mommy and Daddy were in Japan.

She had a lot of fun and enjoyed the trip, coming back after probably gaining a few pounds.

She went to the park and the pasture, as well as hosting a tea party for her stuffed animals.



Sammie and Grandpa rearrange Aunt Teresa's cabinets.



Meeting Snowball the cow.



Sammie talks to Mommy and Daddy in Japan.



Sammie sits on Grandpa's chair that great-grandpa Grady made for him 70 years ago.

UPDATES



Camille is a Network Security Engineer at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas.



Robert graduated pre-K in May. He is now in kindergarten.

Jerry & Commodore 64

While the first computer Jerry used was an IBM PC-XT at work, the first one he bought was a Commodore 64. He liked it because it had colorful graphics and could be attached to a TV or VCR for video production.

He used it for years and became adept at programming in BASIC. He wrote articles for national magazines about C-64 subjects.



Photo from RUN magazine in 1988 featuring Jerry writing a program.

This year, he has renewed an interest in it, because of emulators that allow it to be used on PC's and an emulator called "The C64."

Cartridges, games and programs are now available for free on the internet, as well as books, magazines, and disks for learning about it.

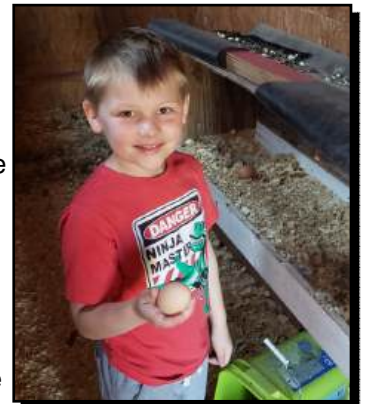


Jerry with "The C64", and magazines where his articles appeared.

Robert has a "side hustle"

It has become popular for people to have a second (or more) money making job, called a "side hustle." When your main job is being a kid, anything else you do becomes that type job. In Robert's case, he went to work gathering and selling eggs from Jessica's chickens. It has become a fairly lucrative business and he takes his profits (after expenses for feed, etc.) to

provide offerings for church, savings for college and, of course, a little spending money. He gets \$3.00 per carton of eggs. Production slowed this summer because of the heat, but things are better this fall. He was not surprised at the slowdown, as the economy has been pretty flat nationwide, but he is glad to see that things are now picking up and eggs are laying down.



Robert gathers eggs.



Christopher and Jessica at work

Christopher is senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Bandera. He is a new member of the Texas Baptist Board of Directors and has made a trip this year to Namibia, Africa to train pastors.



Jessica speaks at the Rolling Plains staff meeting.

Jessica is Communication and Board Coordinator for Rolling Plains Management. She works remotely from Bandera, but visits Crowell regularly for board and staff meetings (and visits with Jerry). Jessica coordinated the Rolling Plains staff meeting in August.

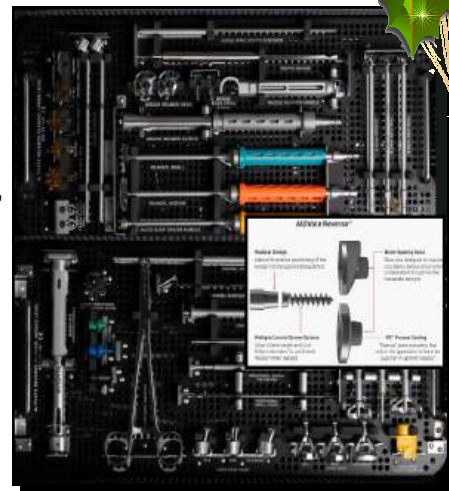


Christopher performs a mother and daughter baptism.

Jeremy designs a shoulder implant

Jeremy is a senior design engineer for Enovis, a medical device manufacturer in Austin. This year, his project is a reverse glenoid shoulder replacement, along with instruments for surgeons to use in operating on shoulders.

Jeremy and his design group have visited surgeons and observed surgeries throughout the United States. Enovis considers the product to be a sought after and profitable addition to its line of medical devices.



Jeremy and Camille get a new home

Jeremy and Camille wanted a larger house, so they moved to Pflugerville, about five miles from their other home in north Austin.

have to use toll roads to get to and from work.

The house is located in a quiet neighborhood and has a large upstairs sitting room and four bedrooms. It only added about ten minutes to their work commute, but they



The new home.

Beowulf and Kitty

Beowulf passed away on November 13 at the age of 14. He's been Jerry's constant companion since 2010 and helped get through the loss of Karon. In years past, he also guarded Jerry from a home invasion and spent all afternoon in the backyard catching a gopher.

Meanwhile, Kitty, who is 15, seems to still be in good health. She misses Beowulf, too, as they had a good relationship (once he stopped being an annoying puppy).



Beowulf and Kitty in Jerry's lap watching him as he watches TV.

Like Father, Like Son, Like Grandpa

When Jerry was six years old, he started to build models. He carried on the hobby to Christopher, who has won national modeling contests. Christopher won in a contest last July in Madison, Wisconsin.



Jerry works on a model kit. He likes "old kits like this one from the early 1960's."

Robert also likes to build and paint models. His interests range from Lego to dinosaurs and the Pokémon, Gundam and dragon figures.



Christopher, Robert and Jerry work on a model of a Gundam robot. Those kits are popular with the newer generation of modelers.



Robert and dad paint a dragon using an airbrush.



Christopher's award winning mecha model.



Robert builds a Lego model.

THE McLAIN FAMILY

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Robert has a Nintendo Switch, but no cell phone (yet).

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Sammie is on another call so don't expect to talk with her right now.



On the web:
jerrymclain.net

Jerry, Jeremy, Samantha, Camille, Christopher, Robert and Jessica

College friends

Jerry visits with Mark Bullock, who lives in Vancouver, B.C. Canada and Jeff Nielsen, who lives in Minneapolis via video Zoom calls. Mark set up the calls last year and they regularly meet and discuss their current lives and old times.

Jerry also visits with Marilyn Berg, a college friend who lives in Aurora, Colorado. They meet when Marilyn takes I-40 to visit another friend in Oklahoma City.



Mark and Jeff on the Zoom call.



A whopper

Teresa went fishing at Medina river in Bandera in May. Christopher brought the worms and Robert (who wanted to go fishing) spent his time playing with the worms while Jerry merely sweated and wanted to leave.

Instead of fresh fish, they had barbeque for lunch (for obvious reasons!)



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