

Merry Christmas to all!

2008 was “one of those years.” It started in January with Ken finding out he has coronary artery disease. After a few tense weeks and many prayers the doctors decided it wasn't as severe as they originally thought. As a result we are now all on a much healthier diet. Ken has lost about 35 lbs and is feeling a lot better. The rest of the year was much better. Here's what happened in the life of each member of our family in 2008.



Zack turned 21 this year. The big news in Zack's life is that he is engaged to be married! He will be marrying Natalie Colvin on April 4, 2009 in Lancaster, California. They will be living in Norwood in the church parsonage. We are all looking forward to the addition of Natalie to our family. Because of Ken's medical issues, movie production of [*In His Steps*](#) has been put on the shelf for now but we will hopefully be able to work on it in the not too distant future. Zack continued working as an apprentice plumber with a man from church. To keep up with Zack's life you can visit his website at ZacharyLawrence.com or you can follow him on [Facebook](#).

Heather will celebrate her 19th birthday in just a couple of weeks. She has had a busy year. By the time you receive this letter, she will have read 8 books by Charles Dickens with just 7 left to go. When she isn't reading, she is baking, cooking, sewing, quilting, transcribing, and taking pictures of flowers and her little brothers. She is back in 4-H this year as the Council Secretary and will be involved in Photography, Sports Shooting and Sports Fishing projects. The highlight of her year was visiting with the Ohio relatives and geocaching with Uncle Dave & Aunt Judy, and visiting the Kansas and Missouri home sites of Laura Ingalls Wilder. She also shot her first deer this fall. To keep up with Heather's life you can either follow her on [Twitter](#) or become her friend on [Facebook](#).



Thomas is 6 years old, going on 16. He is quite the sports commentator and keeps the men at church entertained with his weekly football game updates and statistics. He got his first experience with chicken gutting. He has lost four teeth this year. Our vacation to Ohio was a highlight for him. He really enjoyed the Creation Museum, the North American Christian Convention, and catching fireflies at Uncle Dave & Aunt Judy's. His favorite songs to listen to are Pete Seeger's *Old Grey Mule* and *Foolish Frog*. He also had fun attending a Sarah Palin rally which piqued his political interests.

Robert's 4th birthday is just a few weeks away. He enjoys playing football with Thomas and Daddy and is developing quite a strong throwing arm. His favorite movie is *Facing the Giants*. He likes playing board games, his favorite being *Sorry*. He likes to eat, especially quiche and fish sticks. He's fond of singing just like his daddy and it is fun to hear him sing *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, one of his favorites at the moment. He loves being read to and his favorite book is *Ask Mr. Bear* by Marjorie Flack.



Our church family here in Norwood continues to grow and bless our whole family. Ken's year had a rough start with his health, but in addition to his church duties, he shot two deer, butchered 50 chickens (ours and a friend's), attended a father/daughter purity ball with Heather, Father's Day family fishing trip, and became Secretary for the Norwood Chamber of Commerce as well as their website guy. He also produced a new DVD called [Father-Child Projects](#) that stars him and Thomas and was filmed and edited by Zack.



My life continues to be full and active: internet-based transcription work, the monthly church newsletter, teaching children's Sunday school, raising chickens (a flock of 34 at present) and selling the eggs, raising and butchering chickens for meat (6 in the spring and 26 in the fall), vegetable gardening with deer and the shortest growing season I've ever known, cooking and cleaning for Ranch guests, making homemade kefir and yogurt, *trying* to prepare healthy low-carb meals, and shooting my first deer and processing it along with the two Ken got and Heather's first deer.

A major highlight of our year was a two-week summer vacation. Part of vacation was spent at the North American Christian Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, where we had a booth to promote [Norwood Christian Ranch](#). On the way there and the trip home we were able to do some sightseeing. Some highlights were: The Creation Museum in Kentucky, Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, Missouri, Cabelas in Kansas City, Missouri, the Precious Moments Chapel in Carthage, Missouri, Wilson's Creek Civil War Battlefield near Springfield, Missouri, dinner at Lambert's Restaurant (home of the throwed rolls), Lake Erie, and a drive through some gorgeous Amish country in Ohio with a stop at Lehman's. It was a great opportunity to see the Ohio relatives, too, for Uncle Gerard and Aunt Liz's 50th wedding anniversary.

Well, that's the latest from the [Lawrence family](#). We pray that you and your family have a very merry Christmas and may God bless you all in 2009.

*Ken, Chris,
Zack, Heather, Thomas and Robert*

[Ken's Facebook](#)

[Ken's Blog](#)

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