



ONE

One Body for One Community

*"My prayer is...that all of them
may be one, Father, just as you
are in me and I am in you...so
that the world may believe that
you have sent me."
- John 17:20-21*

July 2011

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Dear Family and Friends,

Ok, since we neglected to send out a newsletter in June, and because June was such a big month for both our family and Mission Waller...we've decided that it's a great excuse to have an extra-special, super-long newsletter for the month of July!

So, what's been happening since our last update? Well, let's start with the end of May. Our roof is fixed, and the tree is gone. We're still working on getting a fence up, but all in good time, right?

National Day of Prayer ended up being such a blessing! Traci was given the opportunity to sing the National Anthem (a first) and was pleased at the response, and the group seemed genuinely united as pastors from various churches led us in prayer for our community, our schools, our country/leaders, our military, etc. It was a time that we really enjoyed, being able to see the community coming together in prayer...it was also exciting that it spurred on the desire in many to gather more often in prayer as a body!

Mother's day was of course such an incredible blessing! Besides being able to go to church and show off our kids and the awesome necklace they bought Traci, Josiah decided to add one more gift to the day...he took his first step! Mama was curious if he could, so she stood him up and sat just a bit out of reach, and sure enough, he took that step and did it with so much confidence that he did it again moments later☺ Mama and Jael were jumping and cheering him on...poor Dada missed it, but he saw it for himself the next day.

Another blessing God gave us in May was the opportunity to see several of our former youth growing and turning into God-honoring adults. Several have just graduated high school and are either preparing for mission trips and helping with our weekly service projects. Also, how exciting...Adam Chaney was ordained! Thanks, Adam, for inviting us and letting us be a part of such a special day! To see something like this is such a true joy and a relief to the heart.

And moving on into June...

Right at the beginning of June, we had the pure pleasure of attending Jael's very first ever Ballet Recital! It's going to sound like bragging, but there's really no way around it, and besides, it's the honest-to-goodness truth...she was the prettiest and most graceful dancer out there!! We were totally aware that it's fairly common for the 3 year old class to clam up and refuse to perform for their adoring fans, but this class did absolutely great...they not only performed their routine, they showed us some of the moves they'd been learning in class



with Ms. Paige and graciously bore with us camera-obsessed parents😊

On the 6th, Mission Waller celebrated its 1st Anniversary in operation! This crazy beast that God plopped us onto has not only survived a full year, it's been growing, evolving and noticeably affecting the community around us...not a brag here, these are observations not only by us, but also by others. Churches are beginning to trust one another and seek counsel and prayer with each other, and in our prayer times together, the room is full of love, unity and an energetic kind of faith. To say the least, we believe that God is showing us the power of prayer and unity.

And on June 7th, it was our 8th wedding anniversary...what a crazy thought that we've been married for 8 years already! During that week, we were staying at Surfside with the family, and we were able to go out to the movies, just us, no kids...and by the time we got back, the kids were asleep...blessing!

The Arts Academy is trucking along. There were a few weeks in there before classes began that we wondered if we'd have to cancel the whole thing because of a lack of interest. But then we received a



very generous donation and were able to give out scholarships to students who really were interested but didn't have the money to attend. This month of classes is so special to us because we feel like this is what the Academy is really for...not to make money, but to give students opportunities to grow and learn apart from the normal things the world teaches, and one of the things we hope they're learning is the love the Father is lavishing on them that He calls them His children and desires for them to meet Him through our love. These specific kids would not have had the opportunity otherwise...so thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart to those of you who help us give scholarships!

Now, here's where things started getting a bit crazy...you know, insane unexpected turns on top of an already busy schedule.

Well, Joel and I decided to volunteer for Waller Baptist's Vacation Bible School...and we were even crazy enough to volunteer to teach the 2s and 3s class...do we need to remind you that we're used to working with teenagers?! Anyways, thankfully, we had some people smarter than us giving us advice and some of our former youth working beside us. Besides the incredible help, Jael thought that having Mama and Dada teaching her class was one of the best blessings in the world!

And then an unexpected turn...on the first day of VBS, Josiah started breaking out in a scary-looking rash on his legs. By the time we got home for lunch, it was spreading and he was a bit feverish. Come to find out, the child had "an un-named virus" that had shown itself as a rash. We were to treat it like chicken pox, not allowing him to come into contact with others until everything was scabbed over. So, what did that mean? It meant Joel and I had to take turns, one of us staying home with Josiah and the other leading the unpredictable 2s and 3s at Vacation Bible School!

Now, it took Josiah about a week to stop being contagious, and thankfully, he was pretty much well by his birthday. Yes, that's right, he is 1 year old already! We ended up having to cancel his party until he got better, so on his birthday, Jael and Mama made him cupcakes. When we tried to get him to eat some, he looked at us like we were crazy, but he was a good sport and got some on his face for pictures!

And another unexpected turn...so, Josiah was well on a Tuesday, and the Waller Baptist youth were leaving for Youth Camp the next day. Joel already had plans to go, but on Tuesday, we found out that

they still needed another woman chaperone...hence, we all got to go on the trip to camp at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. When I first prayed about whether I should go, concerned that Josiah had just gotten over this weird virus and Jael had a new cough, my immediate reaction to feeling God telling me to go was, "Are you serious?" But we are so glad that we went. Not only did we get to build a relationship with the new youth pastor, the teenagers helped us every step of the way with the kids, and Jael even go to go help with mission work with Dada on days that Mama and Josiah stayed at the camp...we really saw some maturity beginning to grow in her. Also, when Josiah was with Jael and she was of course in constant motion, he really perfected his walking in trying to keep up with her!

In fact, he's so satisfied with his ability to walk that he is now moving on to other things...now, he's trying to learn to talk ☺ He enjoyed showing off his new found skill at his (finally!) birthday party last week. And it was an extra special time to celebrate his birthday because it was on Grandma Bear's actual birthday and Joel's Mema was able to attend (she just moved to the area from Kansas).

And another bragging point...sorry, a must ☺ When we were making a banner for Josiah's party, we asked Jael what the banner said, and she read it all by herself! She's so smart!

Now for July...



Carlen Charleston, ret. U.S. Marine
(photo courtesy of Joe Southern)

Joel has been working incredibly hard with the City and the Ministerial Alliance to bring the area the 3rd Annual Waller Freedom Fest. This is a Community gathering to celebrate the 4th of July with food, booths, water play, music and of course fireworks. We've had approximately 3500 in attendance for each of the last two years, and had 11 churches and ministries involved last year. This year, though we didn't grow in attendance with the heat and cancelled fireworks, we ended up having 16 churches and ministries involved. We were also able to add a Film & Art Festival into the mix on July 2nd and 3rd. The films were family friendly and Christian-based, all picked out by Ken Bailey, and there was an art display and contest that is sponsored by A.C.T.S., our Arts Academy. Our art students had the opportunity to have their work displayed and entered into the contest. Our featured artist for the event was Linda Southern.

And coming up in July, we're excited that we will be starting up our new session at the Arts Academy. We're still waiting to see how many kids will sign up, but we're hoping that it'll continue to grow steadily and that we'll be able to add classes for drama and other genres of art in the near future.



And, super exciting...my sister, Heather is expecting her second child, Chloe, to be born...we can't wait to meet her!

Please be in prayer for the many things that July holds, and also for the preparations that we are already making for events that will be projected for the fall.

With Love,

Joel and Traci Bauler
And Jael & Josiah



Prayer Requests & Needs:

- † **Pray**...that the Christians in our community would be united as "One."
- † **Praise**...for all the incredible works God is bringing our way...pray that we would know how to handle all of them and not be overwhelmed.
- † ...for Freedom Fest and all involved, that love was shown and Christ honored.
- † **Pray**...for discernment as we make decisions for our family and ministry.
- † ...for our children to be healthy and for God to grow their character through our experiences.
- † ...that we would always have what we need and that we will always understand what God wants from us in each instance.
- † ...for A.C.T.S., our Arts Academy as we continue reaching out to students.
- † ...for Brian, Heather, Wyatt and the new baby Chloe.