

Christmas '98

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What to get for Mother's Day?

This Mother's day was exceptional in that it was marked by the birth of our second son, Tyler Joseph. This time around we had an additional wrinkle, in that we had to keep Nicholas occupied while we went to the hospital. Numerous offers from neighbors helped, and when the time came (early Mother's Day morning), we packed Nicholas up with books and toys and took him next door. We then went to the hospital and experienced the longer, but none the less spectacular birth of Tyler. True to her MO (Motherly Operandi), Trisch cruised through with no drugs and pushed Tyler out with less effort than it took for Nicholas. Truly amazing.

Upon calling the neighbor to check up on Nicholas, we discovered that Nicholas barely noticed that we were gone. I returned home after mother and son #2 were resting to pick-up Nicholas. Upon seeing his new brother for the first time (in the bassinet), Nicholas' first comment was "Baby's in a Box". That night the family stayed at the hospital and everyone went home the next day.

Given that Tyler was born on Mother's Day, I figure I won't have to worry about shopping for Mother's Day gifts from here on out. Anytime Trisch pouts that I didn't get her anything for Mother's Day, all I have to do is set Tyler down in front of her and that should end that conversation. Let's see; Christmas, Trisch's Birthday, our Anniversary; three more kids and I'll be saving tons of money on gifts!



This was a lot harder to take than we anticipated!

It'll Work if You

Nicholas turned three this year, and he is becoming more and more aware of the world around him. He goes to "Mother's Day Out" once a week and really enjoys it. Over the summer my office had a meeting/retreat at a resort in the Ozarks (Tan-Tar-A) and we went down there for a weekend of fun and relaxation. During one of the group parties, Nicholas met a co-worker's 16-year old daughter. She asked him to dance, but he wasn't interested at the time. Well, by the end of the night, he was out on the dance floor with Jorgie, and she has been his imaginary play friend ever since. He's told us about going to the zoo with Jorgie; he's

loaded up his bed with everything he could lift in his room and told us it was Jorgie's stuff and he was driving her around; and we've even waited outside a restaurant while Jorgie played on a tractor after Nicholas was done. I'd say she made quite an impression on him. Jorgie has become our regular baby sitter. The first time she came over, the two of them were trying to get one of Nicholas's games to play on his computer. She wasn't having much success until Nicholas told her it would work if she rebooted it. Where he gets these things I honestly have no idea!



Nicholas wanted to be an "Eyeball" for halloween!!

Kansas in the Summer

Throughout the summer we looked for opportunities for things to do and places to take the family. If you look a little and use your imagination, you can find all kinds of things to do, even here in Kansas where growing corn is considered a sport. One of the most memorable outings was the first annual BallonFest held at a local airport. The festival was held out on the tarmac, and included hot air balloon teams from as far away as Canada. There were probably 30 - 40 hot air ballooning isn't exactly a

sport with a breakneck pace. The concept of "laps" really doesn't apply since there are few places where you can find wind that travels in circles (with the exception of Tornadoes, but that was tried once and discontinued after a cow and a balloon both tried to occupy the same space at the same time). They make a valiant attempt at racing to a finish line, but the results are more akin to the Monty Python "50 Yard Dash for People with No Sense of Direction". None the less, hot air balloons are BIG, and interesting to watch. To supplement the inherently slow nature of the sport, the 'fest had a small arts & crafts display, a large children's craft area, numerous static displays of planes, helicopters, and fire trucks, and best of all, the "Flying Elvis's". The crowning glory of the 'fest was after dark at the balloon

glow, where the balloons were naturally lit by their flames.



The Grass Really is Greener!!

The year started out with me working at Sprint PCS, and amazingly enough, looks like it will end with a second assignment with Sprint PCS. This second assignment started in October, and was actually in Bethesda Maryland of all places (within spitting distance of Trisch's old office). I was commuting out there for about three weeks, at which point we re-evaluated the staffing and I was offered a KC-based position. Not being one to complain, I decided I would take my lumps and go ahead and spend the holidays in town with my family. Unfortunately, the project schedule did not permit me to make the full rounds in DC, but hopefully I will be back there sometime early next year for a wrap up meeting or two. I'll try to do better planning next time around.

Whenever one makes as significant a change in career as I did, one frequently wonders if this was the right thing to do, and if maybe one was touched by a bit of the "grass is always greener on the other side of the fence". In looking back over the past year, I would say that yes, I have discovered a single misgiving in leaving my former employer. Before moving to the bustling metropolis of KC, I would wake up every morning eager to take on the new day, and knowing that the daily Dilbert cartoon would generally bring unending snickers and mirth. After all, I was certain that much of the material was supplied to Dilbert's creator by my co-workers. Now, I still wake up eager to take on the new day, but I find that I have trouble relating to Dilbert, in that my new environment is so far removed from the "Dilbert-verse" I used to know so well (to all my former CSC co-workers, I apologize, that was my last parting shot).

The past year has given me numerous opportunities to assimilate myself into "The Firm" and I even had an

opportunity to teach at the firm's teaching facility located outside of Chicago. While the opportunity came up on short notice (they called on Thursday afternoon and I was on a plane Friday morning), it was a tremendous opportunity to work with some very bright minds and learn more about myself.

Boys and their Toys

What year would be complete without the ritual accumulation of gadgets in the Price household. The most signification of which was the digital camera that we purchased. We thought it would be nice to have, since Nicholas likes to take pictures and this was an easy way he could take as many pictures as he wants and we wouldn't go broke developing film. What we didn't anticipate was how convenient and stunning the pictures would be. Secondly, it is a breeze to organize all the photos in chronological order so you don't have to guess when the pictures were taken. Coupled with some cool Photo Album software from the internet, we can pump out

CD photo albums to our hearts content. Lastly, as you may have noticed on the front-page, we have a new web address. After Tyler was born we started this as a quick way to get pictures out to the masses. From there it as turned into a general chronology of our summer, and a catalog of our family recipes. All our recipes are there

(some 90+) and they can be viewed on-line or downloaded en-masse.

So, all our favorites are there, like the famous Price family Scrambled Eggs.



Nicholas cruising for Chicks in Overland Park

The Price Family COO

To say that Trisch has been busy this year is putting it mildly. Given that she started the year pregnant, and now cruises around town in the mini-van with a 7 month old and a three year old who wants "McDonalds chicken" every time they pass the golden arches (and that's a lot) I'd say she does have her hands full. Amazingly enough she still finds time (although not very much) to continue her quilting and has even taken up a new hobby - Stained Glass. So, she has moved from the "cut out little bits of fabric and painstakingly piece them together" to "cut out little bits of glass and painstakingly piece them together". I guess some would say that's progress. The big project for the holidays has turned out to be gingerbread houses (or should I say "mansions", since I believe we've violated a few building codes with the first one).



Here is a picture of the Balloon glow from the Ballonfest

Tyler

Tyler is now a little over 7 months old and he is growing like a weed. To date he has been a bit different than Nicholas. Where Nicholas was nursing through out the night, Tyler quickly settled into a routine where he would pretty much sleep through the night and only need to nurse once or twice. He appears to be more interested in getting mobile than Nicholas was at this age, but that may be because of all the attention he gets from his big brother. He has generally been an extremely easy baby, and he has a smile that can knock you out.

