

8/11/07

Michelle,

Hi! I'm up late. Waiting for Heather to get back from babysitting. She's back, but I'm checking email now!

Yes, this email address is right.

I've been a little more relaxed with summer here. Heather's going off to BYU in three weeks. It went so fast. I don't know how I'm going to react to her being gone. Right now I'm fine, but we'll see. I'm excited for her though!

Relief Society is going well. In October it will be 2 years. I feel I've seen a glimpse of what the Lord would like to see our ward do, and I hope I'm not released before I see some of it work. I feel our ward is on the verge of some exciting growth. In January I organized a service committee with a chairman (woman ☺) and members. The Chair has had some health problems and the committee doesn't seem to have the vision quite yet, but it will. I feel we need to be a society in the community serving others and cooperating with other organizations. We have a lot of strength and abilities in the ward and the Lord has confidence in us and a need for us to get out. Our bishop is 100% behind us, and even came in to RS to let the sisters know of his support. So I am patiently waiting to see this whole thing unfold. I really have a great ward, I can't complain. It takes a lot of time and occupies a lot of my thoughts daily.

We are taking a week vacation to Florida in a week. We've rented a condo right close to the beach in Ft. Walton, just inside the panhandle near a city called Destin, if you've heard of that. It's got white sand beaches and clear water. (As opposed to the brown Mississippi runoff that we get at our Texas beaches. Although, the water is WARM here and my kids play for hours in the water as opposed to the freezing water of California beaches.) So we are excited to go. When we get back, Heather and I will fly to Utah to get her situated at the Y. And then it's back to homeschool, RS and working on my house. I have painted my entire house (inside-for the second time in 9 years) as well as rip down wallpaper and texture kitchen walls and

bathroom walls. I have painted and stained kitchen walls and kitchen cupboards too. Now I'm working on painting trim which is extensive throughout the house, with oil-based paint. Then maybe I can get some carpet that I have been needing for about 8 years now.:)

My kids just finished in June their 9th season of summer swim team. They are not in any lessons right now, although Taylor will be playing in Katy Youth basketball this Nov – Feb. for his 6th season I think.

Boy, I am on a roll! Nobody to interrupt, and I can't stop! I need to go to bed though!

How are you? I think about you all the time. Thanks so much for emailing and touching base with me!

I love you!

Tiff

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9/17/07

Hi James,

I'm sorry it took so long to send you something! The day you left the MTC, we were heading to Florida. It was an awesome trip, and probably the least expensive we've had because there were no plane tickets or rental car costs. I think it would be a fantastic family reunion! It was so relaxing and I just turned my life at home off and enjoyed the family and the days of just going to the beach. I really needed it!

Then the next week I was taking Heather back to school and we just were going all day. It was fun to have Whitney there and she came along with us and we had a good time. I met three of Heather's roommates and they all seemed very nice! Heather said they all get along really well and they are bonding. Yea!



Emily was staying at Shelby's while I was gone, so we drove over to their house on Friday, stayed the night, brought Brian back with us and on Monday, which was Labor Day, Jeff and Shelby came and got him. So Tuesday, after all of this, I started homeschool. And it's been just trying to keep up with everything.

Every day I think, "I've got to have everyone write to James," and then the day goes faster than I think. So I'm going to forward your email address on to them and have them individually write to you each week. I think they will be better at that, than if I tried to coordinate everyone.

So our homeschool is going well. We were going to learn Italian, but our kids have wanted to learn Portuguese for years, so I said, "how about we learn Portuguese this year, and then we will learn Italian next year." So that's what we're doing. We have learned about 80 words so far using a program called Unforgettable Languages. They show a word on the computer and you can click on it and hear how it sounds. Then they tell you a way to remember it by visualizing something. Like, for the Italian word FULL, which is piena, they say, "Imagine being so full you have to lean against a piano." And the word sticks. So we are doing that with Portuguese and then, like I already said, we will learn Italian next year. (Emily and Taylor wanted Italian this year, and Spencer and Damon wanted Portuguese, so that was our compromise.)

So I hope everything is going great! Nothing like emersion in the language, eh? I still can't believe you are there! I am so excited for you! I hope you are writing it all down in a journal and taking lots of pictures! I just love the gospel! There are some really cool fantasy books and movies out there that just seem so neat in this day where everything seems so boring and nothing magic ever happens. But the gospel is REAL and it is more fantastic and amazing than anything anyone can make up. It makes sense, it is so merciful and beautiful and personal and we have such potential. The doctrines of our gospel are so powerful and glorious, I am so grateful to have the knowledge that I have. I want to share it and I'm reading a great book my seminary teacher gave to me (many years ago) called "Drawing on the Powers of Heaven." Faith is a power and if we are worthy and seek God's will, ask for specific blessings and are willing to do whatever it takes to achieve what we are asking for, the Lord cannot withhold the blessings. He is waiting for us to ask.

I hope you have a great week and I will try not to let this much time go by without writing to you. I love you! Expect and ask for miracles! You are awesome!

Tiff

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10/3/07

Dear Anzanio Scott,

Thanks for your letter. You sound great! We are doing well here and guess what?! Mom and Dad are COMING TO TEXAS! You probably know that already, because I'm sure Mom wrote you. But we are super excited and it will just be a fabulous time!

We are leaving tomorrow (Thursday) to go up to Dallas and spend Conference weekend with Roark's family and Daron's. Daron and his wife and little girl, Esther, just got out of law school and he got a job in the Dallas area. We will be laying sod on Saturday morning in their yard. Oh boy, oh boy!

Anyways. (did you ever see Nacho Libre?) NACHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I look hideous. (jk) Well, I've got to go. I hope you have a wonderful week in ITALY!!!

Love you!

Tiff

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10/16/07

Hi Anzanio Brother!

Maybe Mom has already written to you about this, but while we were in Dallas, our toilet pipe busted and shot water all over, flooding the whole downstairs. So while we were driving

home, a neighbor called and told us. Apparently one of the boys friend came over to see if they could play and saw water coming out of our front door. They contacted another neighbor who is a member of our ward and she called us. The other neighbor went around gathering wet vacs and they had a key we had given them a couple of years ago durning the hurricane. So they got in the house and vacuumed the floors and turned off the water.

So we have great neighbors, are living in a hotel and waiting for our house to get back together. The carpet downstairs and the laminate wood flooring is all gone. We may have to have the tile ripped out too. They are going to repaint all the walls downstairs (I just did that). The baseboards are ripped out too, so they will have to redo them as well.

Fun fun. Otherwise, I'm focusing on homeschooling Emily since Taylor and Spencer are in Utah seeing Heather and hunting with Uncle Kim. Damon Jr. has a job for most of the day. I'm dong Relief Society too.

You sound really good and I'm so glad you are finding some people to teach! The gospel is so amazing and makes so much sense. It gives such purpose to life. It's easy to take the knowledge and guidance for granted, but when you think about sharing it or that someone doesn't have it, it filles me with such gratitude!

Have a great week!

Love,

Tiffany

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11/08/07

James,

That is so funny! It is sure a small world! I will pass the fun news on to Derek. Here's another one, though: Your mission president is from Provo, as you probably know, but he is in Damon's parent's ward.

That will be so fun for you to see your Modesto buddy! I hope you get to be comps.

The laminate flooring went in today and the carpet is scheduled for next weekend. So the timing gives me 3 days to get everything put back together and cleaned before Mom and Dad come. Whew! This hotel thingy is just weird. I am getting used to it, and that makes me nervous. Also going out to eat every day is getting to be quite the habit. I hope I can adjust back ok! I am trying to clear out any unnecessary clutter. I just feel like throwing most everything away. So maybe I will. I'm getting along just fine without all of it.

Take care! We think about you and pray for you. The gospel is true and beautiful and comforting and makes sense and has answers and gives purpose and I am so grateful for it. I know Jesus Christ is the Savior of us all and there would be no hope without his sacrifice. I know Joseph Smith restored the gospel in the latter days. He was God's chosen prophet to usher in the fullness of the gospel. And because of that, the Heavens are open and God has a mouthpiece on the earth again. I know that President Hinckley is a prophet of God. You are engaged in a marvelous work James and I am so excited for you! Expect miracles! Pray for miracles. Have a great week!

Love you James!

Tiffany

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12/17/07

James,

I am so sorry it's been so long since I last wrote!! I am not that good of an emailer and with the Christmas season on me and my house out of sorts and people visiting two weekends in a row, I just got behind in the rest of everyday living.

We are almost back to normal. The carpet was put in last weekend and our dining/library room still has the last remains of my closet, and several boxes of canned food storage that I don't know what to do with. I just need to tune into it and it will pull together. We got a new washer and dryer, so it just seems like we have a brand new house!

I sent a package way too late to you I'm sure, but let me know when you get it. I really wanted to send it directly to you and not count on the mission home getting it to you, because that could be the biggest delay. But my thoughts and love were with you as I put it together!

It was so great having Mom and Dad here! Me, Mom and Shelby went out one afternoon and shopped and went to lunch and that was a lot of fun! Thanksgiving dinner was outstanding! It was cold enough in Texas to actually build a fire here and Dad played the guitar. We also listened to a tape that we made when Shelby and I were 4 and 5 to Aunt Rita when she was on her mission. Have you heard it? I am so glad Shelby got sick the day after Mom and Dad left. That would have been really sad if she was sick during their visit.

The next weekend we had Damon's parents over. Taylor was ordained a teacher. Yesterday we celebrated Hanukkah. It was a quiet one as we didn't invite anyone over and Heather wasn't here. She comes home Saturday the 22nd at 11:58pm. We are all so excited! I still don't feel old enough or ready to have a child in college. Sheesh!

What kind of technology do you have or have access to? A DVD player? A CD player? A tape recorder? A VHS player? A fast internet connection to receive pictures or audio files?

Well, I hope you have a great week! The work you are doing is so important and is making a difference! One person at a time. Know that we are thinking about you and praying for you here in KATY, TEXAS!!!! Woo hoo!

Love you!

Tiff

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1/30/08

Hi Elder Scott!

I finally am taking time to write you! Are you amazed? I am so sorry!

Well, your apt. sounds cool except for the drying room. Sorry. We just replaced our old washer and dryer of 15 years that were oozing yellow-blackish-oily-watery goo out from under them for many moons. And they are amazing!

Well, my life is home school, painting the house we just bought to rent out, Relief Society, and trying to maintain my home with food, laundry and cleaning. The little house we bought should be done pretty soon, maybe another week. Then I think I will be able to have a normal schedule.

I will see if I can send some before and after pics, along with pics of our fam.

Have a great week and know we are praying for you in our family prayers and think about you often! The gospel is true! Keep up the great work of finding, finding, finding. It reminds me of the parable of the pearl of great price. You are searching and searching for the pearls in your city, and when you find them, there will be great rejoicing!

Love you!

Tiff

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3/3/08

Elder Scott,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

So how was it? You sound good from your letters. A bit frustrated, but overall, still full of faith and hope. Yea! Did you get my package yet? Probably not. It's not big, but the thought counts, and you have something to look forward to right?!!!

We are back from a business/mini vacation trip to Dallas this past weekend including Mon, Tues, and Wed morning. Damon got called to be a seminary teacher, so the break and being able to sleep in was very nice. He now goes to bed at 9:00 and the rest of us have to hurry to bed right behind him.

Not much else is happening besides the busy schedule I can't keep up with very well. Take care and know that we pray daily for you!

Love,

Tiff

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4/10/08

Hi Elder Scott!

How are you? Sounds like there is more to do in the missionary work in Malta than Sicily. I looked up Malta on the internet and saw some pictures and it looks beautiful! It looks like the perfect resort! Maybe a future visit for you in your life!

Over Spring Break, the boys went on a pioneer trek for their stake youth conference. They had a great time. I will let them tell you about it. But Damon and I took Emily to Beaumont and we went down to a bay town on the gulf called Kemah. It has a small boardwalk with rides and we stayed in a bed and breakfast inn. We tried out sailing and have since signed up for the

club. It's this guy who owns 3 sailboats. He trains you in using them and then you can sign up to use them and sail any time. So Damon is really getting into it and we decided to do it to have an activity that our family can do together. We have a year membership, but probably will renew it, so when you come out we can take you sailing. Sound fun?

Heather is anxious to come home. She got accepted into the Visual Arts department at BYU, so she can hopefully graduate in photography. School is very stressful and I think she has some depression she is dealing with on top of it. This summer I am going to try to tune into the foods we are eating and see if I can help her get balanced. I just got this book called Eat Right for your Blood Type. It's interesting in that it talks about what foods are beneficial for your particular blood type and what are neutral and what to avoid. It will be interesting to see if I can juggle it all because Damon is an O and I'm an A. I don't know my kids types, but plan on finding out. Anyway, I'm always learning, and it seems I just get more confused the more I learn!:) Heather's photography is going well though. She just got a job to do a wedding in September in Virginia and they have already bought the plane tickets for her. She is also lined up to doing 3 families in Blair and Danae's ward before she comes home for the summer, and a lady in our ward called me and wants her to do a photo shoot of her family. This semester she did a wedding and last semester she did the same couple's engagement pictures. So she is loving the photography part of life and it's going very well. She did a photo shoot of Whitney and Jacob and Whitney has them up on her Facebook and they look pretty cool!

This Mother's Day I feel inspired for our Relief Society to arise and shine forth. I ordered 300 For the Strength of Youth pamphlets, 300 Proclamation on the Family pamphlets, and 300 each of these new little pamphlets called All is Safely Gathered In: Family Finances and Family Home Storage. My presidency is going to assemble them into a cute packet, (Can the Relief Society do anything less than cute?:))then give them out to the sisters in the ward the Sunday before Mother's Day for them to give to their neighbors. (I will also suggest they add a goody with it as sweets might help butter them up.) The idea is to help strengthen the families of the women in our ward boundaries, as well as do some missionary work. I am very excited about this and I've already sent a letter to the sisters in the ward so they can be thinking about who they can give them to. Hopefully they will take several each! I just think that if we can get these family-oriented resources from the church into the hands of our neighbors, we will see



some exciting things and the sisters in the ward may find some of their friends and neighbors asking questions, and hopefully we as a Relief Society can bring several families to the missionaries to teach! The biggest trick for me will be giving them out myself. Eek. I have such a strong desire to share the gospel, but I can't seem to get past my fear. So this will be a good exercise for me.

Well, I hope you have a great week and that we can hear about some baptisms shortly!! We pray for you in our family prayers. Keep up the faith! Ask and it shall be given. Expect miracles.

I love you!

Tiff

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5/12/08

Hello family!

Just thought I'd send a pic with me and the kids on Mother's Day (rather evening, and we are a little tired and not so "pressed" as earlier in the day)

Happy Mother's Day to all you wonderful mothers!

Love you all!

Tiffany



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5/19/08

Mom,

Thank you so much for the darling card, your kind words and the generous gift!! You are such a gracious and wonderful woman, and I am so grateful and proud to be your daughter in law! Thank you for your love and support, advice, understanding, encouragement and friendship.

I look forward to you coming to Texas next month! We will have a great time!

I love you!

Tiffany

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5/30/08

[To Heather Rose Janis]

We have been so delinquent and I am not going to take it anymore! Here are some highlights from the Damon family in late April and May:

- Damon went to Senior Prom with Tiffany's BYU roommate's daughter, Meilina.
- We have taken up sailing and are having a riot! On our last outing, Spencer was complaining that it was boring, so he and Taylor tied a rope to the back and the boat dragged them through the water and it was "the best" after that. Next time we will take a boogie board. Anyone who comes to Houston between now and next March will get treated to a day on Galveston Bay.
- The boys have been on several canoeing campouts to train for their High Adventure the first week of June.
- Emily has taken up English horse riding and two times a month just isn't enough for her.
- Heather took lots of pictures thanks to Danae and Mindy (and Kylee for getting engaged!:) She has updated her website, so check it out at [heatherlorraine.com](http://heatherlorraine.com). She has also started a blog which has a link from her website.

(Heather, I will send more pics in separate emails)



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6/5/08

Hi James!

I think about you all the time, but I am such a bad emailer. I am so sorry!

The boys were gone for a week and a half to EFY in Provo, then came home late Saturday night. At 5 am Monday morning, they went to the church to start a week high adventure canoe trip down some river in Arkansas. Needless to say it's been pretty quiet around here.

Damon's sister Alissa and her husband, Joe, and their baby, Emmiline, are here. Just got in today from Maryland and will be leaving tomorrow with Heather to San Antonio where Joe's sister is getting married and Heather is going to take the pictures. So tomorrow when they leave, it will be just down to Damon, me and Emily. Crazy!

Kylee is getting married on August 15th so we decided that instead of going to Florida this year, which we really really want to do, we are going to see family, which we really really want

to do too. It's so hard when there is not enough time to do everything you want to do! So we are going to drive out to CA, stopping in St. George and seeing John and picking Emily up where she will have been for a few days. (We are flying her out. It will help keep the car less squishy for a couple of days of our trip.) We will stay in Modesto for a few days and then go to Utah for the wedding. Then we are going to Bear Lake and renting a cabin and playing in the water for a few days before heading home to school, work and seminary, leaving behind two of our children in Provo. Yikes!

We are in the swim team season, with the boys missing just 1 meet in all of their absence. July I am going to try to get both Spencer and Taylor to get their Eagle projects done. Damon is waiting for one more letter of recommendation to come in before the paperwork is submitted and he has his board of review. So we are so close!

Relief Society keeps me busy. The handouts for Mother's Day went well, and one neighbor of a family in the ward who has been asking questions and they gave her the handouts has decided to take the discussions! So that's exciting!

I just love the gospel. It is so simple and yet beautifully intricate and woven all throughout history with prophecies and signs and wonders in the Heaven and on Earth. I am so grateful for the Atonement and the hope that we have because of it.

Keep up the great work! I hope you have more discussions with the lady you taught and is reading the Book of Mormon!

Love you!

Tiff

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7/3/08

[To Heather Rose Janis]

Highlights of June for Damon and Tiffany's Family:

The boys went on a canoe high adventure down the Buffalo River in Arkansas. They said it was dull because they never saw any rapids to get excited about. But toward the end they rigged up a sail and it actually worked and it was great!

Joe, Alissa and Emmeline came to town and we just loved every minute of it! We went to our local neighborhood Beach Club and Emmeline sported her beautiful new bathing suit!

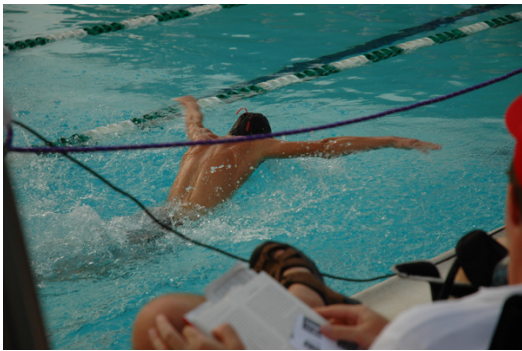
The Swim Team started its meets. Emily raced in all four strokes this year and really has great form for her age. Damon's breaststroke improved substantially, and Spencer actually beat Damon's summer swim team freestyle time at one meet. Mom and Dad were able to come watch a meet. The thunderstorms allowed them to actually see it split up on two days. Bonus! We also took Mom and Dad sailing with us. The wind was a whopping 1 knots and we sat and sweltered in the sun, but still had a nice time, especially on our way home stopping at Neptune Subs where they celebrate Bald Monday. (ask us for details)

Taylor swam in one swim meet, and the next day at scouts dislocated his right pinky knuckle playing football. So he sat out for the rest of the season. Damon Jr. started a knitted hat business and Taylor sold 17-20 hats for \$10-\$25 to the swim team members at the meets to keep himself occupied. We figured that if Taylor could sell warm knitted hats to swim team members in June...in Houston, he's got his career in sales off to a fantastic start!

Had a wonderful trip to Dallas where we got to know Heather's parents and enjoy half of the Janis Clan. Good food, good swimming, (except for Daron's back that went out on him, and then he played water basketball with the teen boys and of course Taylor and his blown knuckle had to join in too,) good pictures (a photo shoot of Baby Nathan in Roark and Becky's bedroom was a cozy mini family reunion,) and good times!

Spencer got his braces off!!! Watch out for your hearts girls!

And I was released as Relief Society President this past Sunday. Emotional for me, but I'm looking forward to my new calling: Sunbeam teacher!



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7/10/08

Hi James,

Life is GREAT! Enjoy every minute of it on Malta!!! You may never be there again in your life, so soak it up and take care of your companion and studying Italian or Sicilian because you will be back there soon! Don't stress, the Lord is in charge. You are doing your best.



We are trying to get Spencer and Taylor's Eagles going. We might be able to do it by Christmas. Then I thought we could have the Court of Honor for all three of them. I thought maybe Mom and Dad could come out at Christmas and mentioned it, then mentioned it to Val and Amy. But you wouldn't be home. LDamon's got his board of review in the next week or two, then we are done except for the processing which takes 6 weeks to get the certificate I guess, and we will be gone by then. So I thought Christmas would be a good time. I don't know if I could get everyone out to Texas for the reunion when you are home, mostly because it is Amy's turn to do it, and some of us have been toying with the idea of Nauvoo. Plus we will be focused on getting Damon ready for his mission. So Christmas is the goal unless we just can't pull it off. Then probably nobody would be able to come from our side except Shelby.

I was released as RS president and called to be a Sunbeam teacher. I have seven cute children in my class and the first week went well. It was sad to get released, and I'm a little numb, but moving forward and trying to concentrate on my family with my whole brain instead of just half a brain.

It is so great to have Heather home. The Summer is passing very fast and pretty soon Heather and Damon will be gone and my house will seem empty.

Rather than type it all over again, here is what I submitted to the Janis Family Newsletter for this month. It's a monthly publication of all of Damon's family with photos and all:

The Swim Team started its meets. Emily raced in all four strokes this year and really has great form for her age. Damon's breaststroke improved substantially, and Spencer actually beat Damon's summer swim team freestyle time at one meet. Taylor swam in one swim meet, and the next day at scouts dislocated his right pinky knuckle playing football. So he sat out for the rest of the season. Damon Jr. started a knitted hat business and Taylor sold 17-20 hats for \$10-\$25 to the swim team members at the meets to keep himself occupied. We figured that if Taylor could sell warm knitted hats to swim team members in June...in Houston, he's got his career in sales off to a fantastic start!



Spencer got his braces off and we haven't gotten any pics yet, but I will send some, maybe with one of the hats!

Love you James! Keep up the great work! The gospel is so true! Shout it out!

Tiffany

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8/4/08

[To Heather Rose Janis]

July went so fast! Damon Jr. turned the big 18 and we had a great party with our family. He got a nice camera to take to school with him so that he can send us all pics of his college life for the Janis Family Newsletter! He also asked for and got a hammock. Ooooh!

Taylor and Spencer, with a little power nudge from their mom, started into super charge mode on their Eagles. They have picked projects and organizations (Houston Food Bank and Goodwill) and have toured their facilities, which was a fantastic experience for both of them. They will be finishing up their last few merit badges and hopefully we will have all three at an Eagle Court of Honor in December getting their Eagles!

Tiffany's sister, Shelby had a baby boy and Tiffany and Emily went to help for a few days and absolutely loved holding and kissing him.

We are all so excited to see everyone in a couple of weeks! Take care!

(Heather, I will send pictures as soon as Heather gets back from her nanny job tonight. The pics I want are on her computer! Ugh!)

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8/29/08

Hi James,

I am so sorry it's been so long! I haven't emailed anyone or gotten on email for at least a month! That's what vacations are for right? Just kidding.

Our trip was excellent and we had a great time in California with Mom and Dad. We first went to John and Val's to pick Emily up, and went to an outdoor theater where we watched Les Mis and it was really good. They had just moved, so we got to see their new home and it's really nice and on a nice street. They have cool tile work in their front entry that's pretty fancy. At Mom and Dad's, we enjoyed watching the Olympics on Dad's big screen which he brought downstairs for us. One day we went over to San Francisco and it was beautiful. We shopped on Pier 39 and drove down Laumbard (sp?) Street and then went over to the Golden Gate Bridge. I went in your room and saw the pictures of you and your roommates looking like the war lady with bandanas on your heads! That was great!

We went on to Utah and Kylee got married. She married a red-head just like her. It was great! Heather was the photographer and she did a great job. (I'm so unbiased!) Damon was ordained an elder and received the Melchesideck Priesthood. That was neat. He said it was a real spiritual experience for him.

We went up to Bear Lake and stayed in a nice big condo with Damon's parents and a few of Damon's siblings and had fun on Damon's Dad's boat and with a wave runner that we rented. I don't know if it was worth it, but it was fun. AND THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT, RIGHT? FUN! HAVING FUN. DOING FUN THINGS. Yeah.

Well, the night before we left, we went out to dinner with Whitney and Jacob and then went to their place, then took Pugs to a park and talked for a while. It was good to see them. They looked good and seem to be doing great. The next day we took Spencer to get his wisdom teeth pulled, said goodbye to Heather and Damon and then we drove the long trip home. Spencer recovered really well, a lot like you I'm told. I'm so glad. It's a little stressful having your child in pain and on so many meds.

When we got home, it was Sunday and then on Monday school started, meaning homeschool, seminary (which Damon is teaching the Juniors -Spencer's class) and Damon had a deposition Mon - Wed in a law suit his company two times ago is involved in.

Spencer got his drivers license and is thoroughly enjoying a little freedom. I am bound and determined to help Taylor and Spencer get their Eagles by Christmas. They are working a little each day and hopefully that will make it happen. Spencer isn't as excited as I am about getting it done in this insane manner, and gives me a lot of grief, but is still doing what I ask.

I've got to go. Have a great week. The gospel is the most wonderful message and you are doing the best work on earth! No guilt! Selfless and of greatest import. The Savior loves his sheep you are finding and He loves you.

And so do I!

Tiffany

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9/12/08

Hi all,

I just thought I would give you an update on how we are doing and what we are doing in regards to Ike. Shelby is staying in Beaumont and I am staying in Katy to weather out the storm. Neither of us are in a flood plain and we have strong enough homes to withstand what is forecasted to come to us. We have plenty of food and water for the next few days in case we lose power, which is highly likely. Depending on how long we are without power, we may go to the other's home or even further. Damon has two brothers in Dallas that are willing to have us.

We evacuated when Hurricane Rita came and both of our families had long bumper- to-bumper drives to Dallas. We don't feel we need to do that this time. It should be an adventure, but we have been waiting and waiting. We just want it to come and be done. We

are kind of bored right now. The stores are all closed including grocery stores and some gas stations. The weather has been very mild today, with a little sprinkle. The sky is cloudy and the wind just picked up a bit. I will send a follow up email tomorrow morning telling you all how the night went for us and how we are.

Here are a few pictures of our pre-hurricane preparedness. The picture of a boarded-up home is our across-the-street neighbors. We watched him board his windows all day. Another is of the sky and clouds at about 6 pm above my home. Another is a garbage can filled with water in my shower. We have two more in bathtubs in our home. Then we turned our trampoline upside-down in the back yard.

Till tomorrow,

Tiffany



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9/16/08

Well family,

We fared really well. Shelby is still out of power, but her house didn't have any damage except for a part of their fence went down. We lost a tree limb and a piece of our fence. And I hear Amy, way out in Cincinnati, got hit by Ike as well and is out of power too. We were out of power for only a day, but there are pockets still in our neighborhood that don't have power. The schools closed last Friday and are closed all this week. Classes may resume on Monday, but in the meantime, the kids are partying with their friends.

Here are a few pictures of after Ike here. There is a tent in the first one that Spencer set up hoping to have a sleep over in the hurricane, but we helped him change his mind. The next is our backyard with the tree branch down. The third is of the piece of fence down. The fourth is Spencer helping to move some branches out of the way in our neighborhood, so that cars could get out. And the fifth is Taylor doing the same.

So there you go! We are feeling very blessed that we have power and hardly any damage. So many have fared so much worse. Gas has been scarce and the grocery stores are out of some food still. But we are good. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers!

Love,

Tiffany





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10/23/08

Hi James,

Well, another long, dry spell from me. Sorry. I am not an emailer. Well, we had a hurricane come through and that was an adventure. In between the Sat. Conference sessions, Damon (Sr) went out to trim bushes and get the front yard looking a little better, and got all entangled in poison ivy, thank you very much. So he has been in horrible agony for the past 3 weeks. We went up to Dallas last Wednesday for a double court of honor for 2 of Roark's boys and Roark's daughter, Laura's baptism. Also, it was a BYU/TCU game at TCU (Texas Christian University) in Fort Worth, TX, so we went to that and were totally embarrassed by the terrible game BYU played. Earlier that day, though, the BYU women's soccer team won their game which we watched as well, because Brandon's daughter, Auna is on the team. So that was a fun extended weekend.

I have put the heat on homeschool and the kids are working most of the day in books now and not having as much free time. I just hope that my calling in RS didn't ruin their lives!

Keep up the great work! You are doing a great job and learning so much! I am so proud of you! The gospel is true! Shout it out!

Love you!

Tiff

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11/4/08

Hi [Greg/Amy/John/Val/Shelby/Jeff/Whitney/Jacob/James/Mom/Dad],

I think I made a blog. I know they are not hard, but when it comes to computers these days, I am a little bit challenged. So I don't know if I did it perfectly, but I think it is up. So you can go to <http://thejanclan.blogspot.com/> and I think you'll see a few things about our family this past month.

It was a very busy month with a lot of things going on and we sent in a few of the pics and highlighted the events with the Janis family on their newsletter, but I wanted to share with all

of you, and instead of sending a bunch of emails, I finally just went to blogspot.com and created a blog. So maybe I'll be able to keep you informed more. But I can't promise anything because I have a hard time composing and writing. But maybe this is what I will be able to do.

Gotta go vote!

Love you all! Miss you all! Can't wait for Christmas!

Love, Tiff

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12/2/2008

Hi James!

I hope you get the baptism date set for Christmas! That would be awesome! Sounds like a different Thanksgiving. "I am thankful for McDonalds!" Shelby came over for part of the week and we had the fixins. It was a very perfect meal. But I was on my feet all day getting it perfect and then cleaning it up too. Hmmmm. I don't know if it was worth it. Hmmmm. Maybe next year, WE will be thankful for McDonalds!:)

Taylor is 15 now. Can you believe it? And yes, he has already applied for his permit, or whatever papers he has to fill out for that.

Spencer and I took a motorcycle training class. He wants a motorcycle in the worst way! Taylor and Damon Sr. will be taking the motorcycle course too. Then what? I don't exactly know. Damon is seriously looking at a Triumph Bonneville 100 if that means anything to you. I never thought we would be looking at motorcycles, but life isn't always how you thought it would be.

Can you see my blog or no? If not, I will try to email my blog posts in an email. Let me know.



Take care. James, the gospel means everything to me. I am so grateful that I know that there is a prophet of God on the earth today, speaking to me to guide me back to a Father in Heaven who loves me and has a plan for me and who sent His Son to atone for my sins that I may stand clean before Him. I am so grateful to have the Book of Mormon and know that it is the word of the Lord and saved for my day that I can benefit from it. I am so grateful for the gospel of Jesus Christ that gives me a way to live and provides the roadmap for my life. I hope you have more and more opportunities to share this wonderful gospel to many more people in the next few months!

I love you!

Tiffany

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12/4/2008

Hi Heather Rose.

I got an email from Danae yesterday asking if I had been informed that I was the spotlight. I didn't remember getting it, but after looking through my back emails, I saw it and I hadn't ever read it. So sorry that I am causing the Newsletter delay! Here it is.

Tiffany Anne Janis

Birthday: May 2, 1967 (that's 41 years old!)

Favorites:

Holiday: I think Passover has become my new favorite. I love the feast foods, the Seder and symbolisms, a connection with my family and a connection with the Janis family as well as a covenant people through all of history.

Color: Lately my favorite color is brown, all shades. Brown furniture, brown clothing, brown toile.

Food: I love brownies and pastries of all kinds and chocolate. But lately I am really loving almond milk that Mindy showed me how to make. And using it, bananas and frozen blueberries to make a fantastic smoothie!

Fun: Anything where my family is together and having a good time. I have really enjoyed sailing this year.

Movie: We just re-watched Man From Snowy River and I think that and The Princess Bride stack up pretty good there.

Music: I love the hymns. They truly inspire me. I love On This Day of Joy and Gladness and If You Could Hie To Kolob. I like Baroque music too. Lately the songs You Had a Bad Day by Daniel Powter and Everything by Michael Buble can make me feel really happy.

Scripture: Alma 37:37 Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

Family Moment: A Christmas Eve a few years ago where we shared our feelings about Jesus Christ, and our wonderful trip to Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

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1/16/09

Hi James!

We got your package and the hippo cookies were wonderful!!! They were cute too! We will get Shelby's to her. I hope this year brings lots of success for you and for the people of Italy, Sicily, and Malta. We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the first chapel

built in Katy next Saturday. I have been on the committee and we have worked for the past year collecting the stories and conversions and testimonies of the original members here in the Katy area and it has been a really wonderful experience. Some people who joined have had many children serve missions, lead the church here and elsewhere, and it is truly inspiring what a handful of strong saints can do! Keep up the great work!

I love you!

Tiff

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2/2/2009

Hello, Hello!

Well, you said that not much is going on and I have to say the same. For me though, IT'S WONDERFUL!:) My responsibilities have really cut back. I may get to start working on my backyard again. This past week, Emily and I have been boxing up the last of Heather's stuff that has dominated her closet. In order to put it all in our attic, I had to get up there and clean some things out. So that was a project. Then Emily was ready to box up some of her childhood toys and preserve them for her children. So that went in her closet. We got her a new bedspread and she wants to paint her room. So I guess that is a project looming in the near future. Ugh. I thought the painting was all done.

How are you coming on Italian? Do you feel really comfortable in the language now? Do you make your own meals three times a day, go out to eat, or have dinner/lunch appointments frequently? Are there very strong members in your area, or are there a lot of less actives? Are you in a branch or ward? What kind of apartment are you in? How does it compare to the other ones you've stayed in?

I am so grateful for the gospel! It gives me a better perspective on life than the material things. It's so easy to get caught up in the rat race or in such temporal things, but then the scriptures or a lesson or talk will pull you right back to what really matters. The gospel also gives me a

greater sense of how much Heavenly Father loves His children, to give us prophets, scriptures, prayer, the Holy Ghost, personal revelation, and a Plan of Salvation. He is so orderly and His Plan is thought out perfectly and omnisciently and that gives me comfort in a world of mortals who you can't count on 100 percent of the time ever. Life has meaning and purpose because I know that nothing happens without Him knowing about it. Heavenly Father knows our individual lives and is aware of all we are experiencing. And I know that He will make all things work out for our best good in the end. Knowing that gives me comfort, peace and joy.

Keep up the great work and expect miracles! I love you! You are a great guy and brother!

Tiffany

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2/13/09

Hi Anz. Scott!

It sounds like things are going pretty well, except that you would I'm sure like a fuller teaching schedule! Preach My Gospel is wonderful! It breaks down the gospel into understandable concepts, that when you really internalize them, they are very easy to teach to someone else. Good work!

I have been blogging a few posts and Shelby jumped into the blogging world and Facebook just last week! So my blog is <http://thejanclan.blogspot.com>.

Anyways, we are doing well and are chillin a little with all the stresses out of our lives. I have so much to be grateful for!

You are an awesome brother and a great missionary! Keep up the great work and EXPECT MIRACLES!!

LOVE YOU!!!

Tiff

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3/13/09

Hi James!

I am so happy that you have an excited investigator!! I want an excited investigator too! Our stake conference adult session was focused on missionary work, and I want to DO something! Our stake president’s talk was a Powerpoint presentation from a book called “How Americans View Mormonism” and it was eye opening. A lot of statistics and he has some good ideas for regular members of the church in everyday conversations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! I know I didn’t send you an email earlier, but I did send a package in plenty of time. Did it arrive? Did you have a nice b-day?

We are going to Nauvoo next week for Spring Break and I am looking forward to it. It’s pretty cold there, but maybe there will be some snow for the kiddos! We will actually be there on March 17th, which is St. Patrick’s Day AND the birthday of the Relief Society, which I believe was organized IN Nauvoo! And Grandma Erma’s grandfather (Joseph Smith MacDonald) and great-grandparents (James and Sarah MacDonald) emigrated to Nauvoo and lived there for a year before being expelled. In their pioneer company, they had an outbreak of cholera and when they crossed the Platte River, James MacDonald died of it. A very sad story. But they came from Ireland! So we will have some sort of celebration on March 17th! Pretty cool!

Are you following my blog? You’ll get some pics and see some random things going on around here.

Love you tons, James! Have a terrific week! Don’t get sick! Expect miracles! The gospel is true!

Tiffany

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3/25/09

Hi James!

The orange package just created itself. As I started out, there were all of these orange things, so then I just went for it and went randomly orange for some fun. That's all, no significant symbolism or anything. J

Ok, I will add you on the blog thing so you get updates.

We just got back from Nauvoo and the places we went to were wonderful and being together was great too. It wasn't a perfect vacation (Spencer wasn't too excited to be there, but every party has to have a pooper, huh?:)) but overall I am so glad we went! I took a lot of pics, but with two cameras plus a video camera, so I only have one of the cameras right now and the pics on this one has some of the family in front of Adam-on-di-aman. I don't know if I spelled that right! So I attached them for your pleasure. The valley is down below behind us.

Now I'm back and trying to get back to life and catch up on things. Our stake is having a 5K run and 1 mile fun walk this Saturday, and I decided to go for the run. I have been doing some running lately in the mornings for a workout and I ran about 2 miles today, so I will probably have a blog post about that. The stake RS pres is putting this on and I am printing flyers about it to pass out in my neighborhood today. We have about 100 homes in our little area, so we'll see! I've attached the flyer. There will be all kinds of things going on and I think the stake wants this to be a big community event. So I'm trying to do my part to get the word out.

Hope you have a great week ! Love you so much!

Tiff

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5/9/09

Hi James!

Well, I guess you have the exciting news about Damon. Did you get to see the video of him opening it? I hope so! So he is trying to adjust to life back in humid Katy, TX without a set schedule and siblings who don't always get along and a very few and far between social life. Hmm. We went down to a government county health clinic to get immunizations started and on the office door it said that because of an overload of influenza shots, the immunizations would be postponed till next week. This, of course was not on the web site, and for how busy the sign said they were, there was NO ONE in the whole room! Lame government offices! (I won't share my tirade about the whole state of affairs here in the good old US, but it would be very long and way too emotional!:) So we are off to a slow start, but it's a start nonetheless. We also started looking for suits. Oh boy, oh boy!

I am making a movie for Damon's parents 50th wedding anniversary that will be using video, photographs, an interview, music, narration, etc. I don't have everything I need yet, but I'm almost there and then I will be spending every waking hour putting it together. I always get these big ideas with scarce time to do it in! Ugghhh!

I hope you are doing great and I can't wait to see you! The gospel is so true! And wonderful! And simple! Expect miracles! And then put your shoulder to the wheel; that's faith!

Love you!!!

Tiff