

Merry Christmas!



Our family is growing! (More on that later!) While flying back from Oakland, I was engaged in a lengthy conversation with the lady seated next to me. We were talking about our careers and my ministry with Awana. She was familiar with Awana as her niece had been in it. She wanted to get her children involved so I gave her some info about Awana. She told me the ages of her kids and asked about my family. The approach into Helena was wild, with the aircraft rolling from side to side. I commenced to tell her about Shelly and our seven children. I glanced out the window. The pilot had cut the engines some time ago but we were still quite a ways above the runway, with the wings rocking. The pilot poured the power on and we started climbing again. I turned back to my fellow traveler and said, "I think we're going to try it again." She looked at me with wonderment and gushed, "Oh, that's wonderful!" "No, No. I meant the landing. We are going to try the approach again!"



Jessica & Heather

Did I say our family was growing? We're getting a son-in-law! Kimberly is marrying Kyle McIntyre December 18th. Kyle & Kimberly were good friends during high school in Deer Lodge. They met up again when Kimberly returned home from Afghanistan. Kyle is into computer software programming. They will be living in Helena.



Kimberly & Kyle

Jessica finished up her student teaching and is finished with her teaching degree at Montana State.

Heather is a junior at Trinity Bible College with a major in missions.

Brittany returned from Afghanistan in August and is stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. That would be Sgt. Kessler for me!



Brittany

Jennifer moved to North Carolina and lives with Brittany. She was planning to attend a Bible school in the area. She attended Breakaway with David and Jacqueline. Breakaway is a gathering for the kids of Awana missionaries held every couple of years at Awana's home office near Chicago.

David is a senior at Powell County High School and part of the National Honor Society. He was on the golf team and ran cross country. He traveled to Washington D.C. and New York with his Close-up group last spring and attended Boys State in Helena. David plans to attend Montana State in the fall.



David

Jacqueline, the baby of the family, is a sophomore at Powell County High School in Deer Lodge. She golfed with David on the team and loves to play basketball with the PCHS Wardens. She is in a couple of choirs at school and they just had a beautiful Madrigal dinner theater.



Jennifer & Jacqueline

She and David are on the annual staff at school. They also assist me and the piano player with the music at church every Sunday, or they do it by themselves if I'm away. They are both leaders in our Awana program.

Shelly and I are both busy with our ministry in Awana. Our travels with Awana took us to Chicago in January, Atlanta in February, back to Chicago in May, Alaska in September and Santa Cruz in November. We are assisted in our ministry by so many wonderful friends who help make this ministry more manageable.



That was our first trip to Alaska. I was speaking at a couple of Awana conferences in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Alaska was beautiful, and we got to enjoy it with our friends Dan and Geraldine. Shelly said Alaska is like Montana...on steroids! The trip to Alaska left just one more for me to complete the 50-state tour.

The four of us got away for a few days to lay by the pool and soak up some sun this summer in Arizona. We went to a couple of Diamondbacks games and tried out an indoor shooting range. (Shelly can still outshoot me!) I drove out to my parent's home in October and visited with them for a few days. The time went by way too quickly, but they are coming to visit us during the wedding and Christmas.

"...the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."

(1 John 4:14.)

That's what Christmas is all about! Is He your Savior? That is our sincerest desire.

Love,
Jeff and Shelly and the rest of the gang!

