



Dear Family and Friends,

Thanks everyone for your letters and emails. It was my hope to get out our letters/cards before Christmas, but sometimes plans don't go according to schedule. Here's what's been happening with "LaReita and the boys" for 2003.



January – Dave and I went on a 4 day cruise to Mexico. We took along Dave's sister Jules, and her best friend Meika. My mom and dad also joined us. We had quite a fun party. Though it was hard to be gone from the kids for 4 days. My brother (LaMont) and wife (Kris) took care of our boys as a swap for us watching their kids when they went on a cruise 3 years ago. Dave still regrets not getting the "Velvet Joseph Smith" in the Mexican street market. I'm of the opposite opinion. It was a little surprising to see the prophet in a velvet rendition hanging next to Elvis and Bob Marley.

March – We went to Las Vegas and had a family party/business meeting with Wyn and her family. We stayed at Circus Circus and also went to the Excalibur to the King's Feast and see the dueling knights. James had so much fun that even as recently as last week he asked if we could go to Circus Circus that day.

May – I took my family down to Arizona for the Cello Congress. James loved being with dad and Grandmas & Grandpas while I attended classes and concerts. I also had one of my students come (with her mom) so she could be inspired. A couple weeks later we went to New Jersey to Dave's brother's (Dan) baby blessing. Dave's sister (June) lives in Pennsylvania and we all gathered together. We had a ball going to the beach, Six Flags, and just being together as a family.

July – Went back down to Arizona for Dave's brother's (Doug) wedding. It was great being with family again so soon. Though taking wedding pictures outside in the July afternoon heat was not so great. In the pictures I took on my own camera, we all had heat-flushed rosey cheeks.

September – We finished the guest suite in our basement and Dave's sister Jules moved in with her best friend. It's been so much fun having them here. We three girls stay up late scrapbooking while watching movies.

James is in pre-school now (4 ½ years old)! He's doing really well with drawing and writing his letters. James also will come pat my expanding belly (yes we have another baby boy coming) and say, "Oh the baby is sooo cute!" and "oh, I love you baby". He loves his brother **Anthony** (2 years old). Now that Anthony is old enough to rough-house with, they love playing together. Anthony is one tough kid. He actually wins quite a few rounds that leaves James crying! Will have to keep a close eye out on baby boy #3 when he comes in January. However if James is crying (or anyone else) Anthony will say in his deep boy toddler voice, "you okay?" Anthony loves to be around while I'm playing cello. Makes it difficult to get any effective practicing done, but as long as he's developing a love of music, that's fine by me. We still go to "Music Together", a music program for 0-6 year olds designed to be fun, and not structured like a typical music lesson. Anthony loves it, and James will sing the songs at home and in the car, but acts like he's not interested when we're at class. Though one thing James really loves is going to gymnastics. He's quite the acrobat and tries to climb anything he can think of, including our walls and closets at home.

Dave still is going strong working with Guckenheimer, Slaymaker, ChiroCode, InstaCode and SimpleJoe. By 12/31/03 we are scheduled to finishing selling off our real estate venture in West Valley City, Utah. It has been a good 2-year learning experience, but being landlords is not the best use of our energies right now. Though we have loved the tax deductions! Dave teaches Elders Quorum once a month and is the Ward Clerk.

LaReita's cello studio was packed with 20 students, but by fall it had dropped to a more reasonable level of 12. It's too stressful for me teaching 20 students and trying to take care of my 2 little boys. I also am president and cello principal of the Utah Valley Symphony. My flutist sister, Lynette, joined the Symphony in the fall and we have loved playing together. I also have had a wonderful experience this past year teaching the New Testament in Gospel Doctrine.



We hope that all is well with you and your family. Drop us a line sometime! And if you're ever in town, give us a call!

LaReita and David Berky

1462 E Mtn View Dr
Spanish Fork UT 84660
lareita@berky.org

801-794-2961
dave@simplejoe.com

