

The Tie That Binds

March 2010 Edition

In Honor of Grandma Titus

This newsletter is a gift to Grandma Titus from the Titus Family. Thanks to everyone who contributed! This project gave Jonny and Kaden a worthwhile purpose for writing. It was wonderful to catch up on everyone's lives. Happy

News about OLIVE WOLF TITUS

March 13, 2010 Grandma turns 90!! She keeps busy teaching beginning piano students. She teaches 3 little girls and an old married couple, both age 84. She also enjoys getting together with family members. She is looking forward to a trip this July to the Pomeroy Reunion in the Bellingham, Washington area. It would be wonderful to have you join us in July.

RICH & JUDY TITUS - Current ages: 68 & 64
3/14/41, 10/24/45 Happy Birthday, Richard!

We are currently in Citrus Springs, Florida for six months or so at our winter home. We both enjoy reading and gardening here at the house. We hope to be able to take in some spring training baseball games - Uncle Rich is an avid St. Louis Cardinal's fan, so we would like to see one of their games. Politics is always high on our list, so we try to stay well informed reading, watching, and listening. I have two sisters living close by, so we try to spend time with family. Uncle Rich fishes on the Gulf when the weather permits with my bother-in-law, Larry. I think they really go out for the lunches I pack - homemade corn beef sandwiches!

Our health is fairly good. Uncle Rich has had some blood pressure issues, but we have them under control. I had a couple of mild strokes last year, but I have good doctors and good medications, so all in all, we're in good shape for the shape we're in!

Our family is all doing fine. Grandson, Jimmy - 21, is playing football at the U of S Dakota, Vermillion. Granddaughter, Elle - 5, just skied in the Barnibirkie in Hayward, WI, and won a gold medal in her division. Yeah, Elle!

We don't have any outings or trips planned other than to return to WI in the spring. Love to all -- Judy

JOHN TITUS

I am 67. My birthday is August 22, 1942 and my health is great. I am enjoying retirement, family, exercising and reading.

Joe and Jen are having the first female birth in our family. She will be induced on Monday, March 8. Her name will be Elaine. (Editor's note -- send us the details by reply all, pls.)

My kids are healthy, prosperous and happy as far as I know. My next outing will be Beave's annual golf tournament that most of my family play in, as well as 40 others in September.

KATHY BYRNE

I am 38.....soon to be 39 on March 31. My health is pretty good, but I still suffer from a lot of headaches. Pretty sure they are brought on by the stresses of my job.

I really enjoy scrapbooking and playing my cello.

Q: How are your kids? A: Sam is wonderful. Since he is now 10, he thinks he knows all! In fact, his favorite statement is "I KNOW!" (even if he doesn't). He is such a joy to be around - full of energy and antics!

Q: Do you have any outings or trips planned?
A: We are having a birthday party for Sam on Saturday, March 6 at Black Bridge Bowling Alley. He has invited 7 of his friends. We bought a bowling pin that all the kids will sign to commemorate this momentous occasion of now being in "double digits!"

SAM BYRNE Current Age: 10
DOB March 1, 2000 at 2:44pm. I am very healthy!

Q: What are you currently doing in your life that you enjoy? A: I love to watch the cartoon Tom & Jerry! My other favorite shows are ICarly, Spongebob and Scooby Doo. I really love to play with NERF guns and especially like to have nerf gun wars. I spend a lot of time at my best friends house, Jameson. He is a year younger than me, but he is just like my brother. I also like to sled with my mom.

Q: What's something interesting happening within your family? A: My dad bought me a real gun....a 22. My mom doesn't like it.

How are your kids? Kids? Not yet! I have a cat - his name is Harley. He will be a year old on March 6. He is VERY FLUFFY! He has long hair and poops a lot.

DALE AND RUTH MANION

Dale age 65 born 8-15-44 He's in great health.

Ruth, age 65 born 9-21-44 She's in great health, too.

What we most enjoy...our grandkids. They are so much fun to talk to because they say the greatest things, like Max, age 5, after playing with our old big rotary phone.

He said, "How did they get that in their pocket?" (like a cell phone). Ryan who is 3 went to a Lego display and saw the Serious Tower, better known as the Sears Tower. Helen, age 8, swam with the dolphins while in Jamaica. Ruby age 1, doesn't say much but she sure is excited about life and is very cute.

In the last year Dale and I have been doing a DVD exercise program, P90X an extreme training including weights, yoga and core, etc. Josh and Julie have been doing this program for about a year now and have gotten amazing results. It's a program you love and hate.

Watch out, a new generation of Rook players has just emerged this week. It is Max age 5 and Helen age 8. Josh and Julie taught them the game last week and they were ready for us on Thursday. Max and I played 2 handed Rook until Helen got home from school. They know the game really well and I'm teaching them to count trump and get everyone out of trump before they trump in on your 1's. Too bad I don't follow my own tips. They informed me that there is no table talking.

MISSY BRIAN AND RUBY YOUNT by Missy
DOB: 7-11 In maturity - I will always be a kid at heart. In years - I am currently 36.

Q: What are you currently doing in your life that you enjoy? A: Traveling as much as possible with Brian and Ruby, meeting new people who are excited about life and helping other people. (Also - singing, dancing, and being silly with RUBY -

going on our daily adventures around Janesville or to Madison to visit people :-)

Q: How is your health? A: My health is good. I'm back into the clothes I wore before getting pregnant. I'm keeping active by walking, doing yoga, going to a chiropractor, and chasing Ruby around every day.

Ruby is a small person with a lot of energy and excitement for life. She has already learned to walk, starting to talk, can walk and crawl backwards, climb stuff, eats almost anything, has 8 teeth - getting 2 more, and has a great sense of humor, laughs a lot, likes music, dancing, stuffed animals - especially Monkeys, dolls, gives hugs, waves Hi and Bye, can take off her shoes, loves to help do anything we are doing, knows how to turn on the TV with the remote, type on the keyboard, tries to use the mouse, has recently started taking pictures of her feet with the camera :-). She has a very long attention span - will sit and sort shapes, clothes, blocks or play with a toy independently for 20 minutes at a time. Also loves to sit and read books.

Ruby is learning how to express herself with words that we can understand - imitating what we say and trying out new words every day. So far she can say dada, mama, nini (for bedtime), all done, this, Hi, up, and thank you. On this same note Brian and I are learning how to communicate with one another more effectively. We have a mutual goal of growing our internet business enough to replace his full time income. He'd love to be able to donate his job back to the STATE OF WISCONSIN.

April 9th - 11th we will be in Kansas City for our Spring Business Conference. Then we are going to the Gordon, Nebraska area April 29th - May to visit Brian's family and the ranch he considers "home".

JOSH MANION - July 22nd, 1976 (I think this makes me 33) and I think my health is pretty good right now.

What are you currently doing in your life that you enjoy?

A: Spending time with family (Julie + Helen, Max and Ryan) Our lives are consumed with raising 3 kids and running 2 businesses. The kids are doing excellent. Helen is in 2nd grade and loving it. She

is crazy about reading and drawing. Max is in kindergarten and loves to play any type of game that he can get you to play, (card games are very popular right now) and Ryan loves to play with stuffed animals and be read to.

I have to go to Salt Lake City next week for work, but nothing fun is planned. Last week we were in Jamaica for a vacation for a week and we had a great time.

BARBARA SWANSON & FAMILY– Current age: 63 Happy Birthday, Barb.! 3/8/46 “Send money!”

I am working 40 hrs right now, and that is good as we have had several company lay offs. We just got my computer hooked up to AT&T. I’m currently learning texting on my phone and using it to annoy different family members. I need to know if I can text you guys for free.

Q: How is your health? A: Ok. I just did a wellness test at work and my score was 92% out of 100%, plus I am not dead! (knock on you guys’ heads!) I’M PROUD TO BE ALIVE. DEAD PEOPLE AREN’T ALIVE.

Katie has her minor in music and is now going to school for an art degree. We do a lot of laughing around here. Steve is working on his bulge and going to a medical health clinic to exercise 3 times a week. His latest problem is diabetes with high blood pressure.

RON BATEMAN

Health Status: Ron was in the hospital the first few days of March. The following excerpts come from Mar’s e-mails:

“Just a note to let you know that Ron had lithotripsy this morning (breaking up of the kidney stone with shock waves). The stone was a bit elusive. It moved back up into the kidney, but Dr. Ferucci located it and was able to break it up. The surgery took about two hours and was pretty difficult according to the doctor, but Ron is on the mend now. The doctor decided it was best to keep Ron overnight again in the hospital to make sure all systems are a “go”.

3-3-10 “Ron is home now and has a stent into his kidney for the next few days. This will allow the

passageway to stay open and not get clogged by blood clots, etc.”

Ron was coherent enough to be interviewed over the phone by Happy. He has had an exciting year with highlights including a \$5 million grant from Alaska Housing to build senior housing in Anchorage. This will be located along Lake Otis, along with 3 other town house projects he is building on 7 acres. The project can be viewed at lumenpark.com. Ron will draw the plans, provide the land and build the 40 senior apartments.

Mar says, “Huge thanks for all the good thoughts and prayers and wishes that you’ve sent our way!”

Another interesting project was initiated by the Anchorage Community Development Authority. The city asked Ron to build some high end duplexes above the railroad on Government Hill. Developers put in streets and utilities, but then it fell to the city to try to find a partner to finish up this project. Check it out at iluvgovhill.com.

Ron says, “I’m working too much. If all the good possibilities pan out, we’ll have too much work. We aren’t doing it for the money, but we are trying to do a good thing. It’s an adventure and we’re hoping to get to the end of our life and not have regrets.”

MARLENE BATEMAN– Current age: 58

DOB: April 30 1951

Health Status: I had a serious kidney surgery last summer, but am in excellent health now.

I enjoy my work, which is developing real estate and building townhomes. I also enjoy singing—an opera here and there, a concert with orchestra.

I also enjoy skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer; getting together with family and friends. For the past three years or so, since Ron & I went into the development business, I’ve been working very hard. It’s been a real adventure, but I look forward to the time when I have a more balanced life, balancing work, leisure, & more time to get together with friends and family.

I’ll be doing a recital with my friends Kate Egan, soprano, and Juliana Osinchuk, pianist, at the National Gallery on the Mall in Washington D.C. in November of this year.

BRIAN CHRONISTER - Current Age: 59
DOB: 2/28/1951 Health Status: Pretty good.

News from Brian: I enjoy preaching every weekend. We're rebuilding our kitchen after having flooded it. My kids are doing better than I ever dared dream. We will hopefully have another cruise this summer.

Q: Did you lie about your age?
A: Yeah. I'm really 40.

HAPPY CHRONISTER Current age: 53 DOB: 7-29-56 Health Status: Good. I've recovered from having an osteoma removed from my skull early in February.

I had a bone on my forehead that a plastic surgeon removed with a skill saw. The recovery was grueling. I had 7 giant staples in my hairline and my face swelled up so that the kids suggested a wear my kuspuk (Native parka) to round out my Eskimo look. Now the protruding bone is gone and I can wear my hair up without people asking if I bumped my head.

I am busy sponsoring 100 home school kids and helping their parents manage their budgets. I teach Alaska Studies, craft classes, cooking classes and Child Development for the Charter School. At church I also oversee Children's Ministries and Jenna and I have helped Brian's brother get a stronger children's program going at his church. I attend a weekly Ladies Bible Study and I do various volunteer projects in the community, helping with the Crisis Pregnancy Center and the homeless.

I am getting old, though, and can't go 18 hours a day anymore. I like to read for recreation. In my spare time I've redecorated the kitchen. We had a water hose break 3 months ago. This was a lot of work and a little bit fun. I love the new granite counters, maple cabinets and paint job. We get new tile and carpeting later this week. At least the main floor and basement of our 23 year old house will look new.

JORDAN & CHARITY ERIKSON

Current Ages: 24 & 23 DOB: 04/18/1985 & 2/19/1987

Health Status: Good as far as we know.

Both Charity and Jordan are fully checked out, certified Air Traffic Controllers at the Anchorage International Airport. Jordan works in the tower, assigning runways and directing planes as they land and take off. Charity works 180 feet below Jordan in the TRACON building (Terminal Radar Approach Control). Tracon controllers oversee planes that are 50 miles out from Anchorage. They get them lined up for their approach for landing, so Charity hands planes off to Jordan. Right next to the airport is Lake Hood, the busiest floatplane airport in the world. This adds a great deal of activity and stress to their work load in the summer.

Jordan: Believe it or not I enjoy my job. There are times where it can be unpleasant, but in general I really like the work and most of the people I work with. As a hobby I have been rock climbing with a friend. It is very fun and challenging, but also rewarding.

Charity: I enjoy my days off and the times I spend with my family and friends. We do a weekly movie/game time and dinner night each week at my parents.

Back in January over 25 family members and friends met up in San Diego and took an 8 day cruise to Mexico. Davey Chronister joined us for this trip. We have time off again in the middle of April but haven't decided where to go yet. Last year, one of our vacations was preempted by the eruption of Mt. Redoubt, a volcano across the inlet from Anchorage.

Q: How are your kids?

A: Our kitties are doing great. We have two cats: Little Dude (Chester) and Little Kitty (Peanut). Jenna's boyfriend, Trevor, (Jordan's co-worker) is helping us build a big Cat Tree for our rowdy cats. We are waiting for mom's carpet to be replaced this week so we can cover the cat tree.

DAVID CHRONISTER Current age: 21 DOB: 9-10-1988

Davey is a junior in college at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He is studying Aviation Technology, just like Charity and Jordan did. He is taking an on-line Chemistry course from Rio Salado College, a computer course, U.S. Government and American History this semester. He has some

critical aviation labs left to take next year and then he will be done.

His trip to Mexico was his first cruise and first time out of the country. He did not enjoy the heat and found it annoying to deal with Mexican street vendors who aggressively tried to get you to buy their wares.

His hobby is on-line poker. Unlike most people, he has made money playing poker because he is calm under pressure, smart and patient. It has served as his part time job.

JENNA CHRONISTER— Current Age 18 DOB: 2-6-1992

Health Status: I have a little cold, but otherwise I'm healthy.

Q: What are you currently doing in your life that you enjoy?

A: I am singing weekly on the worship team at New Grace and teaching Sunday school for two churches. I take a weekly piano and voice lesson, attend a college algebra course at UAA and study music theory and Alaska Studies this semester. I also work as one of the youngest shift managers at our favorite McDonalds. I have even been training Jonny.

Q: What's something interesting about your family?

A: Well, 3/4 kids in our family are now adults.

Q: Tell us about your boyfriend, Trevor.

A: Trevor Norsworthy, age 24, is from Georgia. He works with Jordan as an air traffic controller. I met him when Charity & Jordan invited him to attend my dad's Revelation Bible Study on Sunday nights. He helps me teach my 4:00 p.m. Sunday school class for Cliffside Community Chapel.

Q: Do you have any outings or trips planned?

A: Yes, I'm going to Washington for the Pomeroy Reunion, and then to Creation Fest with mom and the Dave Titus clan.

JONNY CHRONISTER (by Kaden) Current age: 14

DOB: December 11, 1995

Jonny is now 5 ft. 7 inches tall and skinny as a poothtick. ☺ The most exiting thing in his life is getting to go to work at McDonalds now that he is

14. He does everything no one else wants to do, like, empty the trash, draw the drinks, hand them out the window, restock supplies, sweep and mop the floors.

His favorite pass time is Xbox. The Xbox 360 is a gaming console used for entertainment. Jonny and I and our friends play together over Xbox LIVE day and night. Xbox LIVE is an online service that enables users around the world to simultaneously connect through our TVs. We use fancy earpieces to communicate by voice.

DAVE TITUS - Current age: 52 DOB: June 10, 1958

I am still fairly fit and my health is good as long as the ibuprofen is near.

What are you currently doing in your life that you enjoy?

I enjoy everything I am doing. At present there is just too much of it. Here are a few of the things I am doing.

- *Living with Laurie, watching Rianna grow, trying to get Kaden off the couch.*
- *Serving as an elder at ChangPoint (our church). Who ever knew that being old could be so much work. Ministering with men in our church who are committed to bestowing a Christ centered masculine vision on our sons and on fatherless boys (we call them chosen sons) in our community.*
- *Working with our partners (Batemans and McGrews) to build a development, design and construction company. Working with those partners and others to build specific projects like Aurora Square and LumenPark.*
- *Working for Big Dirty Oil (otherwise known as BP) on "small" projects - that is any project that will cost \$250,000,000 or less.*

What's something interesting happening within your family?

We may soon be apart for a week at a time if my work calls for me to go on a slope rotation. The upside is that for the week I am in Anchorage I will be on R&R. This schedule could afford us with more opportunities to travel as a couple or as a family.

LAURIE TITUS – Current Age: 49

DOB: November 27th

Health Status: My health is pretty good. I sprained my ankle pretty badly in January, but it seems to be getting stronger each day. I didn't sprain it doing anything exciting, I just slipped on the wood floor wearing smart wool socks, not smart enough.

I enjoy raising and homeschooling my two youngest kids, Kaden, age 14 and Rianna, age 8. They are, of course, wonderfully gifted and loving children who love learning and beg me for more (not).

I also have the privilege of having a family dinner night every Thursday when Landry, Tabitha, Kendrick and Stevi join us for some good eats. It is so nice to be able to enjoy everyone together on a regular basis.

I also like to read. I am currently reading Fearless by Max Lucado, Christy, Sword at Sunset by Rosemary Sutcliff, and The End of Reason, by Ravi Zacarias. I am reading Fearless as part of a weekly women's group I have been a part of for about 6 years. They are my dearest friends and a great encouragement to me.

This summer, I was challenged to begin painting again and so I am slowly getting back into watercolor painting. I don't have a lot of time to do it, but it is fun when I can.

Q. How are your kids?

A. Landry and Tabitha are working and saving up to buy a house. They both hate their jobs, but they pay the bills. Landry interviews for every new position he qualifies for at GCI. He is in the technical support area for the local phone/cable/internet service. Tabitha works for a small company that sets up computer systems for businesses. They are happy and love each other a lot, so what could be better?

Kendrick and Stevi are also hoping to be able to get a house in time to cash in on the first time buyer's credit. Kendrick works part time for REI and part time for our design-build company keeping the books and helping out in the office. He is hoping it will grow into a more full time position soon. Stevi works at

the bank and likes it so far. It has regular hours, good pay and benefits, and is not too far from home. They also are happy and in love!

Kaden is in eighth grade and homeschooled. This year he has a couple of group classes taught by someone other than me and is doing really well in them. He loves playing Xbox, especially when he can get online and play with his buddies. He also likes to cook and has helped me out on several occasions. He is quiet and kind-hearted and still pretty tolerant of his bossy little sister!

Rianna is in second grade and also homeschooled. Along with her regular subjects, she has a group class in geography and one in art and she goes to a lady's house who does a unit study on the Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House books. She really likes that, especially when they get to bake something tasty. She is learning to play piano and tells me every week how much she hates it. She also takes swimming lessons and loves that.

Last weekend, we were all silently riding home from church in silence because we were so tired. Rianna piped up and said, "Well, you seem to be short on sociability. How 'bout I kick it up a notch?" Then she proceeded to tell us all about her day.

Q. Do you have any outings or trips planned?

A. In April, I will be traveling back east to be with my Mom and brothers to pack up her house and get it ready to sell. It will not be easy to say goodbye to the place I've called "home" for 43 years.

We are attending the Pomeroy Reunion in July with Kendrick, Stevi, Rianna, Kaden, Happy, and Jenna. We will also go to "Creation Fest" afterward, a kind of a Christian Woodstock!

THE BREAK-IN

I just ordered a new man door for our garage, after the present one was kicked in one morning last week. I was upstairs with Rianna and Kaden was still in bed. It is a

metal door and took considerable force from repeated blows to get it open, I hope the thug broke his ankle. I think when he saw my car in the garage he took off. Thankfully, it didn't happen on the morning I leave the kids home while I go to my women's group. No one was hurt, just a little freaked out. Rianna thinks it is a sign from God that we need a dog.

LANDRY TITUS Current Age: 22, DOB: April 21, 1987

I'm in good health with the exception of having Crohn's disease which is currently in remission.

Q: What are you currently doing in your life that you enjoy?

A: I love spending time with my shiny new wife. I like watching cartoons and playing computer games. I also like eating unhealthy things.

Q: What's something interesting happening within your family? A: My family's dull. Really dull. Like a turd at the end of a driveway. Just the way I like it.

Q: Do you have any outings or trips planned?

A: I could go for some Taco Bell. Mmmmm. Nachos.

TABITHA TITUS, (Landry's wife) Current Age: ?

DOB: February 7th A lady never reveals her age, but I'm old enough to know better, and too young to care.

Health Status: I am mostly in good health, except for the trick knee that acts up when it gets cold, and the arthritis, and the gout. I finally got more prunes and Metamucil, so at least I'm regular! (Editor's note – we hope she is kidding.)

I'm currently reading through some of my favorite books again, and trying to stay as far ahead of Landry in Cafe World (Facebook game) as I can. It's the simple things that I enjoy. :)

My dad just got a promotion on the Slope, my sister is graduating this year, and our cousin is coming up for the summer.

I'm not planning to go anywhere too wild, interesting, or out of state. If I can get the time off

of work, some summer camping would definitely be on the list.

KENDRICK & STEVIANNE TITUS – Current Ages: Kendrick: 19, April 24th, 1990, Stevi: 19, June 19th, 1990, Health Status: health is grandly fantastic!

We enjoy our jobs, being married, and traveling. We also like visiting with our families. Playing on our iPhones and watching movies are some other things we like to do. Occasionally, we like to get out and go skiing.

Our most exciting news is that we just started the process of buying our first condo. It will be finished in a month or so, but we won't move in till June.

We plan to take a road trip to Fairbanks in March for a friend's wedding. We are also going to Minnesota this spring, in May, to visit family.

This summer we have a trip planned to Washington state for a family reunion and for a music festival. We might get to go to Israel, Egypt, and Morocco in the spring of 2011.

KADEN TITUS (by Jonny) DOB: 12-13-1995

Kaden is 5 feet 10 inches tall and is 14 years old. He likes to eat, sleep, and play video games. His favorite games on the Xbox 360 are FarCry 2 and Modern Warfare 2. These games are played using the technology of the internet.

RIANNA TITUS (by Kaden) DOB: 12-12-2001

Rianna, age 8, loves playing "The Sims 2" on the computer. This is a game where you make a virtual house and then you create people to live in it that you can control. She enjoys her weekly swimming class where she is learning the breast stroke. Rianna also loves the amazing sledding hill in the front yard. Sledding is her favorite outside winter activity with friends and Kaden.

THAT'S IT. WANT THE BOYS TO DO THIS AGAIN IN 3 or 6 MONTHS? I'm sure they'd love to.... ☺ Happy