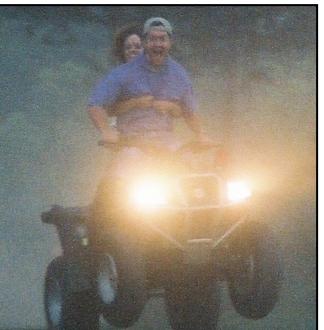


## The Year in Review—continued



Colin & Grace with friends and a 6-1/2' black snake.



Chris & Rachel airborne at the family reunion.



Braden sharing baby secrets with Bear.



Papa & Grandma Jeanie took the older kids on a day camping trip to "Walt's Mountain".

We helped host a family reunion and had several friends visit throughout the year which is always a blast. Lots of fun on the farm picking blackberries, raspberries and gooseberries, gardening, building a tree fort, PRC rescues (Pet Rescue Club), bonfires, you name it...



Alyssa and Dusty in fields of grace.



Sarah Marie eating more than she puts in the bucket.



Grace & Drew (Was that gooseberry sour, Drew?)



Guys' night out!!



As for Rachel and me, all we can say is "Whew!" Our days are full (and many of our nights!), but we are blessed beyond measure. Our business, *Coaching for Christian Living*, continues to thrive. Our book, *When Two Become One*, is still selling well and is being re-released next year in oversized paperback. The Spanish version, *Cuando Dos se Vuelven Uno*, was just released this month and opens entirely new fields for ministry. We continue to speak occasionally at conferences and marriage retreats, and we find our love for each other growing deeper than ever. Next year will be 20 years together! God is so good. We wish you all the joy, laughter, peace, and comfort of life in the Lord this holiday season. May your new year be filled with His blessings and the security of knowing He holds all of your days.



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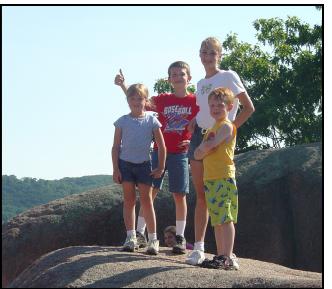
# The McCluskey Chronicles

2005 Edition Circulation: Family & Friends Cost: Just Love!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



L to R: Colin, Drew, Sarah, Daddy, Alyssa, Braden, Mommy, Grace.



We took several short family vacations and made some wonderful memories. One was a day trip to Elephant Rock and Johnson's Shut-Ins State parks. The kids had a ball climbing over rock formations and playing in a series of waterfalls in an ancient lavaflow riverbed called "shut-ins".



## Greetings from our house to yours!!

We hope this finds you enjoying the Lord's blessings this holiday season. In good times and hard, there's such peace in knowing we're always in His care. 2005 has been a rich and wonderful year here on the Third Day Farm and we're excited to share some of the highlights with you in pictures.

## The Year in Review

Our big news is that we finally moved into our house! "Only" three (looong) years after breaking ground on a home we designed and contracted ourselves, we're living in it! What an experience. We still have a lot of finishing work to do on the inside but the difference it's made in our sense of being settled, and on Rachel's homeschooling, is tremendous. "Space" is a *very* good thing.

We continue to make improvements to the farm – both barns and the grainary were renovated in the past few years but we have now finished the chicken coop and yard and have begun work on the stables. We've cleared more trees, fenced more pasture and are mowing more acreage so it's looking more like the dream we envisioned.

We spent some great time with Chris' parents in Branson and on Table Rock Lake. (Don't be too impressed with Chris' skiing – he's being pulled by a pontoon boat! Major reduction in the "cool" factor.) A kick nonetheless, and the kids were blown away when Mommy did some hot-dogging of her own on skis.

**The big hit was definitely tubing. Have to slot that in the calendar for 2006.**



**Alyssa (14)** continues to blossom into womanhood. Music and horses are her big loves. She's singing in the church choir and the new praise band, and she and Chris help lead music for the Spanish service once a month. She finally got her "dream horse" – a buckskin named Gold Dust ("Dusty" for short). He's truly wonderful and she's becoming a skilled rider. Her favorite school subject is still English; she reads several books a week and has five active pen pals. Her days are full – what a great adolescence.



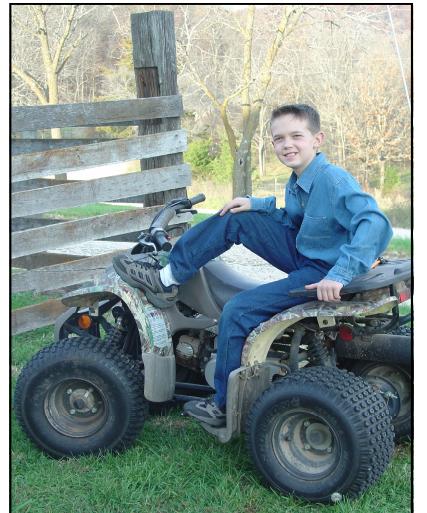
Alyssa and Dusty rode with the Saddle Club in the Prairie Days Parade.



**Drew (7)** always seems older than he is, partly because of his strength and partly because he has to hold his own with Colin and his older cousins, Josh and Connor. He's a little tough guy, which is really fun. Drew's big event was a PRC rescue of a hound pup who's hair is the same color as his. They're best buddies and "Copper" has now found a permanent home on the Third Day Farm. Drew loves being a kid – playing in the dirt, climbing trees, making things out of sticks and rope, and finding adventure in every single day.



Drew soaking it up during summer vacation.



**Colin (11)** is working his way toward manhood, developing a strong, Godly character. Computers remain his greatest fascination but he also loves the out-of-doors. In Webelos, he obtained the highest honor by earning his Arrow of Light. When he's not doing schooling or helping with the younger children, he's battling Drew and his cousins on Game Cube. He's also begun trying his hand at music. We'll often hear his harmonica drifting down the hallway before bedtime.



Colin got a guitar for his birthday.



**Sarah (4)** gave us all an adventure, but not the kind any parent wants! She had a croup attack with a fever that put her into a seizure, which got her and Mommy a ride in an ambulance. Praise the Lord, she's fine. Sarah wins the heart of everyone she meets. Her Grandpa Kravos taught her to swim this year and she's a little fish in water – nothing was going to keep her off that inner tube behind the boat! She's an absolute delight.



Sarah helping Mommy and Daddy earn their gray hairs.



**Grace (9)** is a beautiful young lady, inside and out. She continues to be very artistic, with a natural gifting for drawing, music, dance, color and fashion. She loved the art classes she and the older kids took this year and shows tremendous patience when creating. She made a great rescue of "Peeper", a young quail, in the PRC but he was injured too badly and died a few days later – a painful but good life lesson. She's caught the "reading bug" from her older sister and is beginning to show her same love for horses.



Grace became old enough to get her own 4-wheeler. She loves it!



**Braden (21 months)** has moved squarely into toddlerhood. He's a happy little guy most of the time but frequently earns the title of "Crabby Boy" when he's not getting his way. He has hugs for everyone including the farm animals, and he managed to "kiss" a few walls and chairs resulting in a terrible black eye, a busted lip, and another fitting nickname, "Biff". He's especially crazy about Sarah and she plays the little mother, singing him to sleep and, of course, correcting him whether he's misbehaving or not.



Braden auditions for the leading role in Chicken Little.