

# GRANDPA

In June, Keith Ryan, Eric's 92-year-old grandfather, moved in after being kicked out of his nursing home for having gotten too well! The family has learned a ton from Grandpa about life in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century America this year. We've learned about the transition from candles to electric lights, bootlegging in West Virginia during Prohibition, and life in the Pacific Theater aboard the USS Washburn during WWII. Grandpa spends most of his day listening to the radio, keeping us current on all the latest news and sports.



Grandpa w/ O's hat, kids w/ O Bird

# PAULINA

Paulina has continued to be an absolutely vital member of the Hanly family. In addition to helping with the kids, she established Maryland residency after working for a year as a medical Spanish interpreter, and upped it to full-time as a social work major at UMBC. Paulina also made a lot of new friends this year through church, Bible study, and school.



Paulina asleep in the van w/ Micah

# HANLYS' 2006 @ A GLANCE

- Jan-** Eric in Orange Co for Pac Rim Robotics
- Feb-** Eric in San Diego for SUS, House church Search forum w/ Mike Donehue
- Mar-** Paulina visits family in Wyoming
- Apr-** Personal retreats for Eric & for Jenn, Eric & Jenn in Montreal to celebrate 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Eric in Dallas for SAGES
- May-** Eric in San Antonio for Matt & Jori's wedding, Eric in San Diego for ATA, Kevin graduates from Princeton, Eric in LA for SSAT, Camping w/ Floyds/Peytons in PA
- June-** Eric & Jenn in Laramie for Dave Medders Retirement Party, Don visits
- July-** Matt Ostrander visits for kayaking
- Aug-** Walkersville home school camp, Vacation in Ocean City, Paulina visits fam
- Sept-** Eric in Berlin for EAES, Shane & Shane concert, Dinner w/ Coxs and Kardoes
- Oct-** Steven Hanly and fam visit from Australia, Bed rest begins, Susan visits, Eric in Chicago for ACS, Jenn attends retreat for home school moms at the beach
- Nov-** Kandi Helms visits, April French visits, Eric hospitalized, Rachel born, Susan visits
- Dec-** Sheri visits, Paulina in Mexico, Jenn drives w/ Don and kids to OH for Christmas



Rachel, Mical, Micah, & Josiah

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# Hanly 2006 Christmas Letter



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

First of all, please accept our apologies for the lateness of this letter. 2006 concluded in quite a tumultuous fashion for the Hanlys and we are just beginning to get back on our feet. As we reflect on 2006, we are struck by the faithfulness of God—both in His keeping of promises, and in His provision of strength to overcome adversity. As always, we hope and pray that the Christmas season has afforded you the chance to reconnect with friends, family, and with our Heavenly Father, whose most precious gift we celebrate this time of year.



Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

— Philippians 1:6

# ERIC

Eric continues surgical training as a resident at Johns Hopkins. The ongoing sacrifices his family makes to support him in this endeavor are unbelievable. Fortunately, other than being at home or in his whitewater kayak, there is no place that Eric is happier than in the operating room—removing thyroids, colons, lungs, transplanting kidneys, etc. Eric continued to present his surgical research this year, traveling to CA, TX, IL, and Berlin. Eric & Jenn also honored Dave Medders at his retirement in Laramie this summer.



In Wyoming w/ Sheri, Cody, & Don

# JENNIFER

Jenn continues to be the heavenly glue that holds the Hanly family together. With the birth of Rachel and the addition of Grandpa to the home, she now manages a household of eight! The biggest project was, of course, growing and delivering baby Rachel. Jenn is also busy home schooling Mical and raising the other kids as a pseudo-single mom. ☺



Jenn w/ the kids & w/ the new baby

# MICAL



*Mical at her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday party*

Mical (5½) continues to surprise us with her wit and intellect. The other day, when Baby Lamby's reign as favorite toy seemed threatened by her new Little Mermaid doll, dad—in an effort to “teach” her the meaning of the word *favorite* (Mical had initially stated that they were both her favorite)—forced her to choose between the two in the following hypothetical scenario. “If both toys were tossed into the ocean so far apart that you only had time to save one before the other would sink, which one would you rescue?” She didn't hesitate a second, but whipped back, “Lamby, of course, because Ariel can swim!” Silly daddy!

Mical started Kindergarten in the Hanly Home School (overseen by Walkersville Christian Family Schools). She is an extremely eager student, frequently even asking to have school on weekends and holidays (if only her parents were so tireless!). She is now reading simple books, doing simple addition, and kills close to a tree's worth of paper each day in drawings, paintings, and other crafts. Swimming lessons w/ Papa (Brian) have continued, but this year, Mical opted for gymnastics instead of ballet with Mimi (Jeri), and has enjoyed that as well. But perhaps the biggest excitement for Mical this year was finally getting a little sister. Mical loves and cares for Rachel like she is her very own!

# MICAH

Micah (3½) continues to be all boy. Whenever daddy gets home, Micah immediately thrusts his arms around dad's leg and exclaims, “Daddy, I wanna wrestle you!” To which dad replies, “OK, but I'm warning you, I'm gonna take you down!” To which Micah responds with an ever more firm grip around dad's knee, “NO, I'm gonna take YOU down!” Micah and daddy then lead the rest of the clan upstairs to mom and dad's bedroom where the kids tackle dad by leaping off the bed into daddy's arms. Dad then crashes to the ground in an Academy Award winning death-scene performance that repeats itself over and over until dad is finally really dead.

Micah is conveniently jealous of Mical's home schooling, so mom does a small amount of “table time” with Micah as well. Mimi (Jeri) started Micah in gymnastics this year, and Micah quickly proved to be a natural. His favorite move is the no-handed forward roll, which his father watches with amazement, each time wondering, “Why doesn't that injure his c-spine?” Micah also loves to play soldiers, knights, Star Wars, or really anything with guns, swords, light sabers, or other weapons.

Micah is also thrilled about the new addition to the family. He loves to pet Rachel's head and feet (the parts with which mom and dad let them play), and coo with the sweetest of sincerity, “Aw, she's SO cute!”



*Micah, GQ in his “feet jammies”*

# JOSIAH



*Josiah “Smiley” playing in the rain*

Josiah (1½) remains the happiest child in human history. The boy simply never stops smiling. Well, OK, there were those two weeks of sinus-blocking congestion and bone-chilling fever conveniently combined with six-tooth teething and diarrhea that got his spirits down a bit, but other than that, he's been all smiles! In addition to his joyous demeanor, Josiah also has an unusually well developed voice and sense of pitch. He loves to sing Amazing Grace, Row Row Row Your Boat, and, in honor of his big sister, The Little Mermaid's theme song.

With the acquisition of balance a couple of months ago (Josiah can finally walk & run w/out difficulty), Josiah recently transitioned from “the baby” to one of “the big kids.” He now wears capes with his big sibs and masquerades as Batman during their antics—well Batboy actually, Mical & Micah are always clarifying. This year for Halloween, the three of them went as “A whole family of Supers!”—Supergirl, Superman, and Superboy—quite a sight!

Mimi (Jeri) started Josiah in a children's music class that meets weekly at a church down the street (this just might be his forte!). Josiah has also become Grandpa's little buddy. He loves to toddle back and forth to Grandpa, and, when he's ready for a break he exclaims with outstretched arms, “I'ant down!” Which means, “I want up!”

# RACHEL

2006 also ushered in the fourth and final Hanly baby—Rachel Lorna, born Nov 17, 2006, (5 lb 14 oz). Rachel has turned out to be the perfect little finale to our family, but the circumstances around her coming brought our family to its knees!

At 32 weeks, the baby was diagnosed with intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) and Jennifer was placed on bed rest for the remainder of the pregnancy. It seems that in caring for the other 3 kids with hubby rarely at home, Jenn's little body had finally outstretched its ability to put weight on the baby. Thanks to Brian, Jeri, Kevin, Susan, Paulina, April, Donna, the Helms, Johnsons, Floyds, Auroras, Peytons, Hendersons, and Caplans, and because of meals that came from friends and family all over the country, Jenn was able to become a morning-only mommy, spending most afternoons eating in bed! As if this wasn't enough, a few days before Jenn was to be induced, Eric was admitted to Hopkins with a partial bowel obstruction from IBD. Fortunately, he was released just in time to join Jenn in L&D at GBMC.

The multitude of prayers and generous efforts of our tireless friends and family paid off, as Jenn and the baby caught up on weight and Rachel was delivered full-term in perfect health. Praise God for seeing us through this difficult time and for teaching us the blessing of humbly accepting the help of others!



*Daddy w/ Newborn, Baby Rachel*