



Christmas 2007

Merry Christmas from the Staleys!

Here we are in December again and I'm sitting and thinking about giving gifts but my mind is drifting more towards all the things I didn't get last year that I had asked for. Donna said I really didn't need them and whatever she says – goes. She did wrap up a nice block of cheese as my big gift which I enjoyed all through January.



We took a few days off throughout the year and enjoyed the time off. One of our day trips was to Islands of Adventure in Orlando. As you can see from the picture, (us boys posing – Donna not posing), Donna found this ride more than she had planned for. The boys and I told her that this was just one of those movie rides and we would not leave the ground Here you see us five stories up, just beginning to drop 1000 feet. Donna was not too happy with us for quite some time. I guess we should not have lied to her as now she won't go to the Regency Movie Theatre with me any longer.



We also spent a couple of days on vacation this summer with our son, Shaun and Amanda Meeks at New Smyrna Beach, Florida where we have a time-share.

We wrapped up the year by taking a trip with the Meeks family (EP members) to Gatlinburg, TN for Thanksgiving. We met up with the David Meeks' extended family that all planned to be there for Thanksgiving. It was nice because we spent time with good friends and our family was all together including Chris, Tawney and Shaun. We had a great Thanksgiving dinner even though we did not know many of the extended Meeks family and found it rather strange that many of them brought their hunting guns with them to dinner. I took this picture of three of David Meeks closest relatives – here you see his uncle - Bob, cousin – Bobby and second cousin – also Bobby, who all share the same mother. Yikes!



We also were able to help Chris and Tawney move into their new rental home. They are doing well and Tawney was hired full time where she is completing her nursing school intern position. Shaun is at Trinity Baptist College and will finish his four years in 2008.

Back to the gifts.... After much careful thought, I have decided to give Donna a nice set of tools that comes with one of those big red tool chests on wheels from Sears. She's always complaining that she has to wait so long for me to get things fixed around the house so this way she can get to it on her own as quickly as she wants. Please don't give away my surprise like you have done in past years. I hope your gift giving goes as well for you.

In reflecting back through the year at East Pointe, many things have taken place. We had four great Sunday evening – “Food for Thought” services. Pews were replaced with chairs to accommodate larger dinner gatherings. Our kitchen has been upgraded to a full commercial kitchen, new staff additions, refinements to our property, and many other great things. Children's Ministry also had a great year seeing children receive salvation and fifteen children baptized. There were exciting activities for our children and families including Vacation Bible School with an attendance of 230 attendees, summer camp at Stetson for 2nd through 5th graders, Summer Music Camp, one campout and one family fun night, cosmic bowling, roller skating, children performing drama and music on two Sunday occasions, and two Awana Regional Games where we came in first place in many of the heats and events. New children's classes offered in 2007 were Crown Financial for Kids, and monthly Salvation and Baptism classes. Our Awana children adopted and fully supported (\$1200) the start up of Awana for the Baptist Church of Escazu in Costa Rica where over forty children can now learn scripture. More important than all of these activities are the Sunday Schools, Children's Church and Awana Bible verse memorization that molds our children into the Godly kids we want them to be.

I want to thank you for your important role you have played at East Pointe and in our Children's Ministry. Many have helped behind the scenes with childcare, concessions, VBS, through financial means to insure a child goes to camp and through Awana contributions, and many other helps. Many of you are there week after week, teaching and assisting, providing a safe and Bible-learning experience. I don't say it enough that I appreciate all that you have done to further the Kingdom of God. Again, thank you. May you have a wonderful Christmas.

Ken and Donna Staley