



Bihls' Bugle



Happy New Year!

Danny joked that this year we should just share a picture of us wearing masks, and say, “This was 2020. The end.” :) But I’ll share a bit more details than that...

The year 2020 certainly did not go as planned—for anyone and everyone. And yet, God blessed us with His immeasurable goodness. We have all stayed healthy and COVID-free, thankfully. I, Amy, was blessed to already be working from home, so I was able to keep working as usual while helping Caleb finish out fourth grade via online instruction since the schools in our city went virtual for the remainder of the Spring semester. Caleb (who turned 10 in February) began in-person fifth grade in the Fall at a different (intermediate) school, where he wears a mask daily and stays six feet apart from others. Aden (who turned 5 in October) stayed home during the Spring and Summer, went back to full-time Pre-K in the Fall, and then later moved to our church’s Mother’s Day Out program (which provides a Pre-K curriculum) two days a week.

Both Danny and I really enjoyed spending more time with the boys this year while they were “stuck at home” for almost six months. The boys enjoyed swimming in a stock tank pool, fishing, riding their bikes and scooters, and Caleb went on his first hunting trip with Danny. The boys had their fair share of sibling squabbles, especially in our tight, tiny living space (in the fifth wheel), but all in all, we look back on this year of increased family time with great fondness and gratitude.

Danny and I celebrated our fifteenth wedding anniversary in November, and we enjoyed a much-needed weekend getaway in Fort Worth, followed by four more days of child-free time, while the boys stayed at their Nana & Papi’s house.



Another blessing we received this year is that Danny left the EMS field. Over the Summer, he left his 911/EMS job to accept a Texas Department of State Health Services contract position where he assisted COVID-19 positive patients in nursing homes and quarantined hotels. It paid very well, but he was gone for extended periods of time, and the boys and I missed him dearly. That position ended abruptly and unexpectedly, which ultimately led him to his current job at Tractor Supply Company, where he was recently promoted to Assistant Store Manager. After serving in the EMS field for sixteen years (eight of them in the fire service), Danny is happy to no longer be in a trauma-filled environment, and we're all happy that he's working more daytime hours than nighttime ones. Though we weren't planning on a career change in 2020, it most certainly turned into a blessing for all of us.

I, Amy, worked my tenth year at Therapy 2000, and the benefit of being able to work from home for the company these past six years certainly came to my advantage in 2020 with the increased need for remote opportunities. I am still blogging at faithfamilyfirst.com, and I recently converted it to a business entity (LLC), as I plan to self-publish some books in 2021. Stay tuned! I still volunteer at my church in the Children's Ministry, I chose to temporarily step away from choir due to COVID-19, and I have enjoyed participating in *The Bible Recap* this year (a daily Bible reading plan and podcast to read the whole Bible in a year). I highly recommend it!



(Left) First day back at church, after being away for five months.



(Right) After first week of "lockdown."



Thank you for being a part of our lives and for sharing in our journey. If 2020 has taught us anything, it's to hold our loved ones close, hold God even closer, and always thank God for His blessings, even during times of uncertainty and hardship. *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."* Lamentations 3:22-23. Here's to counting more blessings in 2021!

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