

The McConico Times

McConico's 2010

McConico's 1991



New Years Greetings From The McConico Crew

Welcome! Dec. 19, 1991 was the date on our first family newsletter. There was so much to share with everyone that a note on each Christmas card would have been impossible! Thus, the *McConico Times* was born. A three ring binder holds our family's history told in our yearly letter—which continues with this issue. Putting all that has happened this year into six pages is a real challenge. After all, we have doubled in size! We hope you have fun taking a peak into our year....

BECKY'S BOOKLET - Each year as I write these letters, I like to sit near our Christmas tree - rich with history hanging on its' limbs. There are ornaments made by grandparents during WW99, stockings & bells & snowflakes crocheted by Ron's mother, painted ornaments from other family members, ornaments from my grandmothers & parents trees, photo frames of our children/ grandchildren, soldiers & airmen, snowflakes & icicles, birds & twinkle lights all topped by an angel & frosted with old fashioned tinsel. Each ornament has a story & a reason for being there. Each one of us has our own story & a reason for being here on earth. It may take years to write our story & find out our reason...

Welcome

Becky's Booklet

Ron's Ramblings

Andrew's Adventures

Simon's Shatters

Donna's Doings

Jonathan & Melody's

Musings

Will you Dance With Me?



20 Years Ago: Andrew is 10, 5th grade, Cub Scouts, dance class (did a tap routine in a camouflage outfit to a song about God's army), got glasses & went on his 1st week-long camp out (Camp Fish). Simon is nearly 9, 3rd grade, Cub Scouts, dance class (same routine as Andy), went on a mini fish camp, loves craft/art things, making noise & reading. Donna is 6, 1st grade, got glasses, loves painting/drawing/gluing, also took dance classes. Jonathan is almost 5, loves nursery school, a very good boy who helps Mommy a lot, loves to pretend cowboys/camping/church, loves to draw/paint/color. Ron is working at a computer job, a Deacon at church preaching/teaching at times. Becky is on the church worship team, Picture Lady at our kids' school (through Art Institute), cares for nieces Sarah & Katie a lot, helped clean out her Grandma Roufs home. That year two of our close family members went to Heaven. We tried to sell our house, & we finally decided that God had planted us

The McConico Crew
Becky and Ron
Andrew, Sam & Will
Simon and Nicole
Alex and Donna
Melody and Jonathan & Nehemiah



here for a reason!

As you read this news letter from 2010, you can see some things have remained constant: Andrew – in the real Army now & still in school; Simon – makes a living being creative in many ways; Donna – teaches the dance classes now, still creative & artistic; Jonathan – in school again, cowboys (Air Force), camping (S.E.R.E.) & church (bass player at church when needed); Ron – still involved in church leadership, still involved in computers; Becky – still caring for family whether in town or not.

We have had a year of increase & lots of excitement! Three new family members...weeks of being with our grand children both at our home & in Nevada...children in town to visit...Mom Joyce Roufs turning 80 this past summer & us hosting her party...a wonderful – miraculous – awesome new stove...wedding fun, twice...Duvoli Reunion in Denver...Ron & Becky spent Thanksgiving in Milwaukee with Simon & Nicole...Ron & Becky spent Christmas in Las Vegas with Jon, Melody & Nehemiah (our 1st opportunity to meet the little fella)...& tons of snow!

We are still working on the addition to our house. This year we were able to replant some of the gardens, create a Memorial Garden for Eli & Enoch, Ron's fountain is actually working, a finished retaining wall, redo/refresh some rooms & move a lot of stuff around. There are still stairways, a bathroom & kitchen to finish up & a gazebo to be built!

We had many outdoor movie nights for the neighborhood & hosted the National Nite Out. A traveling musical family, The Taylors from LA stayed with us for a week on short notice. We also provided a place for Jesma from Trinidad to stay & currently have a young lady from our church living with us. I am still an Election Judge & a proud member of the North Metro Blue Star Mothers. Between all the other things, there is still time to cultivate the raspberry bushes, vegetable & perennial gardens! (If you ever need any perennials for your gardens, I have plenty to share!)

Money has been a commodity we have been learning to live without. God is faithful & has provided what we needed when we needed it. He has everything under control.



I do not like being so far away from all my children...four different states & hours away! Facebook & phone calls help, but...it's wonderful to be able to enjoy some face to face time with each of them! The time in between is the hard part. So, in 20 more years will they all be back in Minnesota? Sure hope it doesn't take that long...postage to send all these cookies is getting expensive!

Remember, we actually have a couple of guest rooms now so when you come to town, or have guests of your own needing a place to stay, see if there is an opening at the inn!

There are still some things we can use help with in finishing up the house/yard. If you feel led to help out, give us a call.

RON'S RAMBLINGS.

Last year has brought many changes for me personally & for Youth Resources, our ministry.

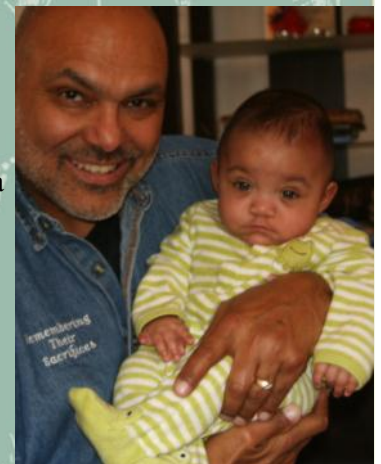
Major Event - *not only for the year but for my life.*

In February I started a Masters program with Bakke Graduate University to be able to run Youth Resources more effectively. The Master's Degree is in Social & Civic Entrepreneurship. Even though I had never attended college before, I was accepted into this Masters program. This is a Major event in one's life.

Easter weekend Simon married a Godly woman from Wisconsin. This is a Major event in one's life. May 14 Nehemiah David was born prematurely.

My wife & I had a chance over Christmas to travel to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas to see him for the first time. I can report he is doing great now. This is a Major event in one's life.

September 25th Donna got married. I had the privilege of doing the ceremony. She married a Godly young man from North Carolina, Alex. They went on their Honeymoon & came back with about \$500 to their name. With that they had to move everything to NC & didn't even have a way to get there. Through a series



Becky with Sam and Will at a Blue Stars Mom's Event



Grandma Joyce Enjoying her eightieth year.

of miracles, they were given a truck & a trailer & arrived safely. This is a Major event in one's life.

Just a little update on Youth Resources: April, we were one of the sponsors of Urban Reload. June, Youth Resources worked on putting a bid on a Minneapolis public school & before that was turned in I spent 90 days of prayer from 5:00 - 6:00 a.m. on the playground of the school. I wrote some of the things God said on my facebook note page. Here's Life Inner City joined Youth Resources as a partner in our Urban Youth Worker Training Cooperative. Youth Resources experienced the lowest amount of donations that we have seen in many years: even less than when I was part time with Youth Resources. As a result of this we had to cut back on a number of things that we were planning on doing. It also meant that I was not able to take a regular pay check. My wife & I have been truly living by faith. We have had a lot of calls from our mortgage company - how do you explain to them that you're working 40 -60 hours a week, yet not getting paid? They ask, "How do you exist?" My only answer is: MIRACLES! Then they laugh & I thank God.

The next Major event is that I started a new business.

Life Gems LLC is a social venture company custom making ultrasound jewelry & sentimental artifacts. (www.lifegems.biz) We will hire urban youth and donate money to organizations that work with families that have lost babies. By supporting an expectant parents love for their baby, we want to save lives of the unborn by supporting research & providing support for those

who have lost their baby with a portion of the profits of our products.

As you can see, we have been busy & have seen many rewards - yet it has been stressful. So would you consider joining us as a monthly partner? - You can do it online at www.youthresources.ws/Partner-Raiser.htm



If you are a youth worker give me a call. I would like to take you out for coffee (or tea) so I can hear about your year & how Youth Resources can work with you.

Thank you so much for standing with us in the past & for being there with us now. Read More about Life Gems below.

ANDREW'S ADVENTURES

2010 in a nut shell was an interesting year & also an exciting one. I am still in the Army & will be commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in May. I finished up my Junior year of college & ROTC at Texas A&M University Central Texas. I am now half way done with my Senior year & can't wait till I am finished! This spring & summer I was training for a camp called LDAC (Leadership Development & Assessment Course). This is where I competed against all of the Cadets that are currently in their Junior year of college. There were about 6,000 Cadets that went through the camp at Ft. Lewis, WA. From the results of the one month camp they test your mental & physical abilities to rank you nationwide. From those results you are given a branch of the Army that you will serve as an officer & go to a specialty school upon graduation of college. My first pick for my branch was MI (Military Intelligence). I was lucky enough to rank high enough to attain MI since it is the third most picked branch in the Army for officers. This camp was very frustrating for me at times since I have been in the Army for a while now & many of the people that were there training with me have no military experience but I was able to get through just fine.

I am currently the CO (Commanding Officer) for the Juniors that are in our ROTC at TAMU-CT. I also have been dating a wonderful woman for most of this year. She is also going to school with me & has a son that is awesome



Maria & Andrew

What work are you called to do, Are you doing it?

Custom Ultrasound Jewelry and Sentimental keepsakes

✠ "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Eph 2:10). When we finally close our eyes at the end of our Hour Glass will you be able to say "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do."

Life Gems LLC - A Social Venture Company
Doing Good by doing good business - You may want to say that this is a for profit non profit. We hope to benefit multiple groups of people. Such as to the Parents and Grandparents, unborn Babies - both healthy and distressed - Research and Support Groups - Urban Youth and Non Profits - More details at www.necklacesforlife.info

as well. Some of you lucky few have had the chance to meet her at my sister's wedding. She works at an oral surgery clinic. Her son plays a variety of sports & is quite the athlete. Also, saving the best for last, my kids are living close enough to me for me to see them every day. Samantha is 4



Samantha, William, Andrew, Jacob

years old & will be 5 on Valentine's Day. She has also started pre K & loves going to school & learning. William is 3 & will be turning 4 in May; he has also decided to save the terrible 2's for his third year of life. Both of my children are absolutely awesome & I would not trade them for the world - however crazy they may get. During 2011 I will be commissioned as an Officer, go to Officer School in Arizona for another 4 months, get an assignment to my first unit as an Officer & start my life as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

SIMON'S SHUTTERS

Hola everyone. This year has been pretty crazy for Nicole & I. As most of you probably know, we got married on April 3rd. It was great to have many of you out to Milwaukee to celebrate with us. We took a little honeymoon to Door County right after the wedding & then in December we sat in the sun in Mexico for the real deal.

During the summer Milwaukee Public Schools ended up cutting over 700 jobs & unfortunately Nicole was one of those 700. After applying at tons of schools, she was hired as a nanny for a cool lil' kid & his soon to be sister, who was born just a few months ago.



Nicole & Simon



Alex & Donna

As for me, I have been doing photography full time for over a year now & things are going great. Valo had a very crazy summer photographing tons of High School Seniors as well as quite a few weddings. We are already pretty booked for next summer & are very excited to see how much we grow

over the next year.

Just before Halloween we adopted our second pup. Now we have Somebuddy, the Jack Russell Mix & Anybuddy, the Boston Terrier Mix. They are pretty crazy, but they get along well & we love 'em a lot (even if they sometimes chew on stuff & pee all over). Nicole & I also have an Etsy shop called EugeneLynn & have been going to lots of craft shows to sell hand made things. I do a lot of paper crafting, journals, & baskets. She does lots of jewelry, magnets, & hair accessories. It's always a lot of fun crafting things for other people as well as things to go around the house. If you want to follow along with the photography work that I am doing you can always check out my blog: <http://www.valophotography.com/blog/simon> or check me out on twitter @simonmconico

DOMA'S DOMGS

Well, 2010 was an interesting year! Last year I started dating an amazing man, Alexander King III & on January 3rd, 2010 he asked me to marry him! As many of you may know, I said yes! So you can imagine what our last year was full of... wedding plans & traveling!! Alex is from North Carolina & of course, I'm from Minnesota. So every month I was either flying or at the airport picking him up. The big decision now was who moves? We settled on my moving to North Carolina after the wedding. Alex is currently in College finishing his degree in Automotive Mechanics. We didn't want to deal with him transferring & possibly losing credits. I am still teaching Ballroom Dance at Arthur Murray. The good thing is that the franchise is worldwide & transferable & what do you know? There are two in Charlotte, NC that were hiring! That started the process of getting the job. Sure enough - they were glad to hire me!



Donna and Alex with Mr. and Mrs. King And their new Truck and Trailer

So, with lots of planning & much help from family & friends the wedding was all set. Finally the day came, September 25th, & I became a King! About two weeks later we were packed up & ready to start our 28 hour drive down to NC! About half a week later I started at my new Arthur Murray home. I am greatly enjoying the studio & staff & already have many new students. Alex & I are doing fine down here. We are learning lots about being married & lots about each other. We are excited about what 2011 will bring to us & have already seen Gods' hand in it. 2010 would not have happened without Him & all the miracles, big & small. He has blessed us time & again already. We are working on keeping our ears open to hear His directions. 2010 was a lot about change & I believe 2011 will be about transitioning. We are excited to see what He will do!

JONATHAN & MELODY'S MUSINGS

2010 what can we say... what a crazy year in Las Vegas!

The year started off interestingly enough when we found out on Christmas Eve of 2009 that Melody was pregnant. What a Christmas gift! In January I started working night shift, which was hard for Mel because of morning sickness, trying to work on her Masters & attending Doctor appointments every week. It was pretty stressful (major understatement). But soon, in February I was put back on the day shift - a huge prayer answered because Mel needed the support. Another amazing prayer was answered: our car broke down when we moved to Las Vegas & we went without one for four months, until a friend & old neighbor from Washington offered us a free car! All we had to do was go get it. So, I jumped on a plane & drove it back!

We went back home to the Midwest in April for Simons wedding. I was the best

man & Melody sang. The year was getting better with every week... until May.

We went to one of Melody's routine Doctors appointments & found that she was starting to dilate. She wasn't due until the end of August. The doctors sent her immediately to Sunrise Hospital, & she was put on bed

rest. We prayed that God would keep Nehemiah in

the womb for as long as possible. At one point, Melody's body was trying to give birth, but to our surprise, during an ultrasound, the Doctor saw Nehemiah sitting cross-legged preventing his early birth! Within two weeks of Melody's arrival at the hospital, Nehemiah decided that it was a good time to meet the world.

He was born weighing only 11lb 6oz at 12.5 inches; so small, but now the biggest blessing to our lives. We thank God for the medical staff who worked diligently to take care of him. To read the full story you can go to www.caringbridge.org/visit/nehemiahmconico. It was one of the hardest things we have gone through. I slept at the hospital for the two weeks after Nehemiah was born because Melody was deathly sick. We worried at times, but knew that God had us in His hands & that everything was going to be ok - for through great struggle, comes great strength. Nehemiah stayed at the hospital for 3 & 1/2 months while he played catch up with the rest of the kids - after all, he was born at 24 weeks & 5 days. During his stay he gave the Doctors a run for their money several times, mostly when I was away with work. He had a big target on his head because Satan knows that Nehemiah is going to shake the gates of Hell, that he has a great calling on his life & is going to be a history maker. He came home on August



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29th, two days before his due date & his Grandma and Grandpa Ellis & Uncle Daniel were here to meet him! He continues to surprise us every day & we enjoy him more than anything. He's the light in our lives. I could go on for days, but I'll let Mel continue with the year...

Well, the hand of God was definitely with us & Jon won several awards through work which led to his early promotion as Senior Airman! I began singing on the worship team at church & the Holy Spirit has allowed me to minister with a different anointing than I've had before. The Lord is healing my heart in many ways through worship & it is amazing. One of my biggest prayers has also come true: Jon started playing the Bass again & wants to start singing with me! I am so excited about that!

We had a busy holiday season with many relatives & friends that came to visit. We were able to go to Cali for Thanksgiving & Nehemiah was finally able to meet my side of the family. I met some new relatives as well. We all had a blast. We stayed here in Las Vegas for Christmas & were blessed to have Grandma & Grandpa McConico here to visit us for the first time. It was the best Christmas gift ever! It was also nice because they wore Nehemiah out so much that he slept through the night & has ever since. Thank God!

We look forward to what God has planned for us this year. It is amazing what He has brought us through. Despite all of the challenges, we are thankful that He was & always is in control & we wouldn't have it any other way.
God Bless!



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