

## Castleberry Annual Letter, December, 2007

Dear Family and Friends,

We pray this letter finds you all well, and rejoicing in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you remember in this season God's own beloved Son Jesus, Who came to earth to dwell among us and lay down His life for us, that we might have eternal life. He has been so gracious to us in this past year . . . and each of you is a part of the kindness He has extended toward us. Whether we have known you much or little, each of you has contributed to our lives in some way, and we thank God for His all-wise love that has worked everything for our good. Steve's mom is still undergoing chemotherapy (a different kind now from the one last year), and doing amazingly well. God has answered our prayers for her, and we rejoice.

The kids all wanted us to let everyone know that our picture is a little different this year, because we were dressed up in late 1800's clothing for a "harvest party" we attended. There were about 150 people, and we played old-fashioned games, including sack races, tug-of-war, egg toss, etc. Lots of fun! And yes, most everyone else dressed up, too!

The girls are enjoying making cheese (colby, cheddar, cream, and mozzarella), butter, and whipped cream . . . all sorts of wonderful stuff from the milk our dairy cows are providing. Come up and visit and we'll let you sample some! The boys are busy being boys – working hard on lots of farm projects, hunting, hiking, building, etc. And when they aren't busy with "regular" work at their jobs, Steve and Stephen join them. We have no big news or exciting events to relate this year, but our everyday lives are busy and happy, and we are grateful for that. God is so good.

Hi, I'm A. and I'm seven this year. I hope you'll have a good Christmas. I like building our cabin with D. I like winter, and the snow it brings, because it's fun to play in it. We have some pretty nice sleds. I like our dairy cows, and I help chain them up to milk in the evening. I like our calf that D. and I own.

One of the farmers near us gave me and A. a calf. His name is Spinner, because he spins around when we give him milk. I enjoyed building a cabin this year with A. We didn't finish it completely, we plan to finish it in the spring. I enjoyed going to a baseball game and watching the Duluth Huskies play. I'm looking forward to ice-hokey and skiing and sledding. Merry Christmas, D. (age 11)

Hey all! Been a fun year. Me and B. enjoyed four-wheeling on the frozen river in February with a neighbor. In October we visited some friends in North Dakota and I enjoyed riding their horses. This spring I bought a Holstein steer calf. He weighs about 500 pounds now. Hope you have a great year! E. (14)

HEY EVERYONE, hope you've had a good year. It's been great up here. This summer was a rush to make hay enough to feed our growing beef herd. We went to a grazing conference in February and learned a lot of new ideas, and worked on our rotational grazing plans. This hunting season has been great, I shot a 10 point buck in the archery season, and an 8 point that scored a 98 6/8 in gun season. God really blessed me with some good spots to hunt. Till next year, B. (17)

Hello ~ so it's Christmas time again. Baa humbug. Just joking! Unlike Scrooge, I really do enjoy this time of year. The weather turns cold and the ground is covered in snow...I love winter! I graduated in June and had a wonderful day with family and friends. It's great to be done with school, and now I'm helping to teach and just enjoying farm life. We older kids put on a play this spring. Jeannie and I wrote the script together and had so much fun! We all tried to make it like a real production, from the makeup and costumes to the stage and lighting. Okay, so maybe it didn't turn out perfect though. :) There was a

lot of rehearsing, laughing and so many memories made. Like on the big night, when I tried frantically to turn on the lights and music for the bow. I flooded the stage in light, and to my horror saw cast members still scurrying around taking off props! We did so much this year, there isn't room to tell it all. God gave us a wonderful year, and may He do the same for you. In His grace, Betsy (19)

Hey to Everyone! This year was great, but the summer went too fast. Our family enjoyed visiting the state of North Dakota, to see some friends up there. We had fun watching the sugar beet harvest. It was amazing to see the mountains of beets awaiting "sugar-a-zation." I had a fun time riding their horses, and all was going fine... until my horse began galloping. I was screaming with laughter, and couldn't get him to slow down. Incidentally, I dropped my reins, and couldn't recover them until he stepped on them. Poor horse...I pity him. Having to have such a dumb rider as I. Eventually both of us made it back in one piece. We all enjoyed watching a new movie... "Facing the Giants." For all of you who haven't seen it yet, I highly recommend it. It's very well done, and one that's encouraging. Hope this finds you all doing well, and having a great year. For His Service, Katie (21)

Hey, all! It has been a busy year for me, and filled with God's blessings. I finished school this spring, and began working at Krech Ojard and Associates, an Architectural & Engineering firm; as a CAD drafter. I played softball on the church team this year, and had a lot of fun. I am still on the Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department, and the Douglas County Rescue Squad. I got to fight a couple of house fires this year, which I really enjoy. I did not shoot any deer during the bow hunting season or regular season, but did shoot a doe during the muzzle loading season with my black powder rifle. I hope you have a great year in 2008.  
In Him, Stephen (24)

Hi there! This year was full of new experiences, as well as plenty of familiar ones. I enjoyed watching Stephen play softball on our church team, going to North Dakota, admiring everyone's deer, writing and putting on the play, working in the garden and huge potato patch, and attending the grazier's conference. This fall I started working for Dad, helping him with research, online classes, and designing a website. I'm also assisting with the AWANA club at church, helping kids memorize Bible verses. God has been good to us this year and given us many happy times together. May He do the same for you!  
Because of Jesus, Jeannie (26)

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas and New Year,  
The Castleberry Family