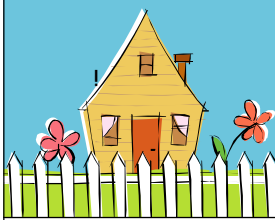


# HURLEY NEWSLETTER

July 2007



## PERSONAL STUFF...

Well, it seems like a lot has happened in a short amount of time since I last wrote. Jennifer and I have spent a tough month while she has been in Dallas studying for the BAR exam and I've been in Tulsa. I would not recommend this to anyone, but thankfully it is over.

For the past two weeks, I've been frantically getting the house ready for Jennifer. Now this may not seem like a big deal to some, but I've been living in this house as a bachelor for over a year. Sarah Logdson and the teen girls are raising money to take a trip to Memphis, TN, so they came by and grabbed some stuff for a yard sale. Then the next Friday I got a group of the teen guys together and we completely overhauled the place by hauling a bunch of junk to the dump. Paul Dupre came over to help us out, and then he and his wife Devin let the guys spend the night over at their place to play some Nintendo Wii.

On that Wednesday Gordon Jennings, a friend of mine from church, and his two kids, Porsche and Taylor, rode with us to Dallas. We caught a Rangers game (we won 8-2! Brad Wilkerson hit 3 home runs! It was awesome!) and then the next day loaded up a U-Haul. Gordon drove the truck back to Tulsa while I took the car. Ever since then, we've been slowly unpacking.

I can't express how much I've been looking forward to this. It has been very hard driving up to Dallas every weekend and making it back for Contact on Sunday. We are so blessed to be able to have all the pets together and enjoy our family all at the same time.



*Matt baptizes Dakota at Camp Rock Creek on June 13, 2007.*

## THE MINISTRY...

Today I'd like to share with you a story about a boy named Dakota, a coach, and a pool.

In the summer of 2005 I met Dakota. Early in the summer Bob Logdson put on a fundraiser for the teens at the Tulsa Convention Center. As the afternoon went on the teen boys got a little bored. Fortunately, there was a rodeo going on across the way.

Unfortunately when Bob asked me to take Dakota and his cousin over to look at the horses, the boys thought it would be completely acceptable to jump into the area set aside for the horses. I frantically tried (unsuccessfully) to get the boys to calm down. I thought to myself, "This kid is a pain!"

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### THE MINISTRY (CONTINUED)...

Over the next year I got to know Dakota much better. Sunday mornings Dakota was on my pick-up route for church. He was the first one I picked-up and the last one to be dropped off every time. I soon found out he was more than a pain and a ball of uncontrollable energy but a person with a big heart and an uncontrollable smile.

Last summer Dakota had a life changing experience at our camp in Missouri. The details are not so important but needless to say Dakota got very angry with our host, a generous man named Coach Dixon. Dakota felt like he'd been wronged and in the moment of his anger, I reached out to touch Dakota not knowing if he'd swing at me. Thankfully (for me!) Dakota let out his frustration in a positive way rather than a violent one.

### JENNIFER'S CORNER...

Matt's not the only one who had a hard time with the last month and a half! After graduation was over, Matt headed back up to Tulsa for a summer of camp and interns. I stayed back in Dallas, to study for the bar exam and finish up my job in Dallas while I found and trained a replacement. There were a lot of lonely nights—especially after Matt took the cats with him to Tulsa! Matt was great about calling me several times a day and keeping me company. Meanwhile, I finished things up at work and said goodbye to the many friends that I had made throughout the office. At work, they had a goodbye luncheon and cake for me on my last day, and I feel truly blessed to have worked there and made the friends that I made.

This whole year Dakota and I have often talked about what happened last year. We talked about forgiveness and gratitude. I've seen big growth in this guy. The Church family is blessed because this story ends in a pool. At camp this year Dakota decided to give his life to Christ by being baptized. Right before he did he wrote Coach Dixon a sincere letter of apology for his actions. Being around Dakota and sharing in his story, has blessed me and I look forward to many more years of shared ministry with this brother.

Emotionally, however, I was ready to move and join my family.

Moving has been stressful, but Matt has done a great job of doing most of the grunt work and letting me focus on studying for the bar. This week we added a new member to the family—Admiral, a 7-week-old chocolate lab. Other than that, the adjustment so far has been relatively smooth. I am so encouraged by the support system that existed before I even got here. I am already getting opportunities to help serve with Matt, and I hope to get involved with the teen girl's group at the church once the bar exam is over. It is on July 24-25—wish me luck!



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