



This year has certainly been a unique one, with challenges and learning experiences unlike any other. Even in the shadow of disasters and the pandemic, the Lord has blessed us with His tender mercies.

 **Jonathan** is pursuing a degree in Architecture and Interior Design. He has fun drawing floorplans and wood working schematics for home use. He also loves carpentry and growing his power tool collection. Jonathan began tutoring Roblox coding on WyzAnt and is not only relishing in the challenge of teaching, but is also enjoying helping others.



Finding life in every natural environment he visits has become a favorite past-time, which is probably why Jonathan enjoyed the Independence Day weekend trip the family took to Corpus Christi Beach. Injuring himself (spraining and damaging cartilage in his foot and ankle) didn't seem to slow him down in the search for a new family dog. He has even been working on training Benny. Jonathan also continues to improve the environments he has for his growing fish population.

 **Andrew** has had a busy year. He's enjoyed participating in Showtunes for a Cause to benefit Youth Obesity, Alzheimer's, and other causes. He's worked hard to pay off college and other debt. In late spring, Andrew moved in to an apartment with his friend Abel. He has learned the joys of doing activities online with friends, like DnD and game nights with his Stage Door buddies, where he got to know Katie. In December he will have been dating Katie for about six months. Andrew changed jobs and is now a manager at Pizza Hut. Like the rest of us, he has not caught COVID-19 yet.



 **Heather** is enjoying learning about parenting. Her favorite book on the subject is *Discipline Without Distress*. Her favorite quotes of the prophets on parenting are from Joseph F. Smith and Brigham Young. Much more can be learned in the chapter on parenting in *Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young*. She is currently one class away from earning her certification in Marriage and Family Relations. She is also taking a Krav Maga self-defense class and planning to learn more about sewing and gardening. Heather met with the Bishop and is in the process of putting in her mission papers.



 **David and Julie Ann** spent the year working, learning, and raising the kids. **Nathaniel** (4) and **Ronan** (3) are loving their new playroom/bedroom and Nathaniel is very proud of the fact that David built the room. There are a lot of times when Nathaniel will pray and thank Heavenly Father for the "room, which his dad made". They are learning so many scriptures and have 14 verses memorized!



Julie Ann continues to work as a Medical Assistant and is loving her job. It's weird to think that it's been a whole year and a half since she started! She's still writing on the side and hopes to publish at least two books in the next year.

David is studying business and computer programming, starting a couple of side gigs, and writing. He's got a couple books in the works, a non-fiction and a sci-fi.

 **Holly** loved home Sacramento Meeting this year, Zoom meetings (such as ministering and the virtual ward temple night on indexing), the Ponderizing texting group with her three sisters, Aqua Therapy at the physical therapist, and adopting Benny (a Texas-sized Pomeranian, we adopted in August, from Recycled Poms).



This year has been full of amazing medical procedures/surgeries for Holly: image guided lumbar epidural corticosteroid injection, two knee surgeries (for torn meniscuses), Ligament Reconstruction and Tendon Interposition (LRTI) on her right thumb, and a Cholecystectomy (Gallbladder removal). All challenging and very adventurous!

 **Harold** has now worked from home for three years. However, he sort-of changed employers in the first quarter, when UTC and Raytheon (right here in McKinney) merged. So, now he works for Raytheon Technologies still doing Product Cybersecurity. Harold enjoys tutoring for Wyzant. He has tutored over 2,200 hours and has a coveted 5-star rating!



Harold favorite outlet is taking his two grandsons and the three family dogs to the park after work daily. He continues to work toward earning a graduate degree in Mathematics. Since he had to put running and scuba

diving on hold, he's "being prepared" by gradually gathering pandemic necessities when he grocery shops. He also does most of the dishes, laundry, meal prep, vacuuming, mowing, yard work, trash disposal, etc. while Holly heals from all her surgeries.

One of Harold's little milestones this year has been bonding with our new dog, Benny. Benny, a 3-year-old rescue now follows Harold around just like 11-year-old Roxy! Pappy passed away December last year at 16 years.



Roxy



Benny



Lulu



Please, do not let the pandemic keep you from staying in touch with us. Here is how we can be reached:

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You are in our prayers. Stay safe and have a very merry Christmas and a better than 2020 new year. And remember:

*"Be Strong, and Courageous!
Do not be afraid;
Do not be discouraged,
The Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)*

2020 Quotes of the Year

Can you guess who said what below? These lines may seem senseless, but in context they aren't. You can find the key at the bottom of the other page. If you'd like to see all the candidates for the Toomey Times Quotes of the Year, visit the Toomey Times home page, <http://www.Toomey.org/family/times>, and look for [QOTY](#).

1. "I had something to say. Then I threw the duck in the tub, and now I can't remember what it was."
2. "Why would I want to impale myself when I could impale you?"
3. "The very first time I put two words together, I was calling my dad an idiot."
4. "I've already done a marathon in a tutu. Belly dancing isn't going to kill me."
5. "It's my prerogative to play with my toy."
6. "I went over quantum mechanics because I just needed to stop."
7. "Oh, it's Roxy's birthday today! ... So, we need to drug her."
8. "You wanna know how I get my fast power? From the sun!" "Are you superman then?" "Um, yeah."
9. "Wow, Jabba the Hut is H-a-u-t-t!"