

We've been married for thirteen years and this is the first time we've sent out any type of Christmas card or year end "update". So where do you start after not doing what some families do faithfully every year? You can see from the picture that we have three children and we went on vacation to the beach earlier this year and I could give you all the facts (the facts are available if you like at www.GregEubanks.com), but that wouldn't give you a true picture of what our lives are like.

We don't travel very much or do too many exciting things, but I don't think anyone that's been around us for long would say that we sit around or that our lives are boring. We count it a good weekend if we haven't been to the hospital for someone to get stitches or a bone set. I pride myself in knowing all the free activities and craft fairs happening in middle Tennessee and we are there almost every weekend. Mattie (the oldest child) will ask me why we are doing something, and then she will answer her own question with "Did you get free tickets?" Sure we'd like to go to the big event or concert happening in town and occasionally we will spurge and go out, but we find that some of the most special times are going on an "adventure". An "adventure" is where we get in the car and no one knows where we are going, not even the driver. But we will come home several hours later tired and usually the kids have had a good meal, a balloon or two, their faces panted, and some small souvenir from where ever the car led us.

Our kids are all different which every parent with more than one child can say. Mattie has a sense of fashion and design and a heart of compassion that makes her like a second mother. Ed is an achiever who wants to do everything himself to just to prove that he can do it. Lucy has an amazing personality and the ability to make people smile. They're not perfect and they're not wonderful at everything they try. But what we are proud of is that they will say "Yes mam'" and "No mam'" and "Yes sir" and "No sir". They will respect authority and they will try to do the right thing. We are blessed to worship at a church where children are important and they are learning virtues and a love for Jesus. They are learning that the world doesn't revolve around them. They understand what it means to think of someone else besides themselves. They are learning that they are special and were created to do great things.

Kathy's job is to love. What other job is there for a mother and wife? She often jokes that that is all she does, but she does it well and knows what our family needs most. Her wisdom is in understanding what is important and what isn't important.

Our lives aren't always wonderful like the picture enclosed. There's times where mom and dad have to "talk"...for long periods of time...over several days! There are times the kids need to be disciplined. And there's times when dad has to apologize to his children because he is stressed and acts like a fool. But what the picture does show is people who stick together through good times and bad. It shows smiles that are genuine and friendly. It shows folks that enjoy being together. It shows a group of people committed to loving the Lord and each other. It shows a family. Specifically, it shows the family of Greg, Kathy, Mattie, Ed and Lucy Eubanks.

"We are more sinful and flawed than we ever dared believe yet we are more accepted and loved than we ever dared hope at the same time because Jesus Christ lived and died in our place." – Tim Keller