

Jordan's wedding speech

Some people think you're crazy when you announce your fifth child is on the way, but our friend Patti, who is here tonight, got it right – she told us “you come alive with 5!” I was having my quiet time with the Lord soon after, and these words from Luke's gospel jumped out at me: “You will have a son who will bring you great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.”

Those words have been fulfilled. You've not only brought us joy, you've made us laugh from the beginning. I know you've been expecting someone to tell the story of you at two, coing out of the bathroom with a toilet paper tail announcing, “Look everyone, I'm a racoon!”

You had no fear from the beginning – being the littlest on the trampoline, big brothers all bouncing together to see how high they could get you to bounce, and grabbing you by the leg before you catapulted off; later taking a flying leap off the deck giving visitors a heart attack, not knowing you had a trampoline under it you were aiming for; jumping out of the loft of the barn; jumping into the deep end of the pool, Ben diving after you and grabbing you by the hair to pull you back to the surface; climbing 20 feet up a tree, only to have a branch break and tumbling to the ground, with just the wind knocked out of you and a few scrapes.

When you were older, cliff jumping at Gold Creek, free running – where you run up the side of a building or jump from one to another. The bible says children have an angel that always has access to God – I think you had a whole team, because you did crazy things without ever getting seriously hurt. Always looking for adventure, pushing the boundaries, and challenging us to trust you and God.

You entertained us with your ability to remember just about everything you've seen, heard or read. You were Calvin in “Calvin and Hobbs” – and could apply some part of the dialogue appropriately in any situation, having us in stitches. Or lines from movies – McDonald's drive through: “keep the change ya filthy rascal.”

Animals – the weight and length of every dinosaur, names of obscure species, collection of plastic animals – but not interested in having real ones. Figured out they needed to be fed, and ages cleaned. Insatiable capacity to learn and discover – not necessarily what teachers wanted you to learn, but learning nevertheless.

Unwilling to be pushed by someone else's expectations – working out a math problem in your head, but getting no points because you weren't willing to write out the steps to get the answer: "Busywork" - you march to the beat of your own drum.

Didn't know you were a perfectionist (bedroom, wardrobe) – but ask you to help with a job and it will be done right or you'll knock yourself out trying to get it right.

Kindness – difficult kids, insecure, bullies – Costa Rica, spending a precious day of vacation to travel back to the airport to pick up Mel to be sure she would be safe.

Generous – giving up your room repeatedly when visitors, or kids needing a place for awhile came to visit. Generous tips when you weren't making much yourself – you knew what it was like to be a server.

Youngest – quiet, but ready to talk if someone was really interested

We left when you were 19, and have had to watch these later years from a distance, so grateful when Kaylee came into your life, and with her the Hansmas, who have truly become a second family for you.

You've become a man while we've been gone, a man of integrity, compassion, a thinker. We love you are proud of you, and very much looking forward to having you close, to be able to do life together once again.