

# Happy Holidays 2005



**Y**eeeeeehaw! Hot damn! Howdy and Happy Holidays! It's that time of year again when you might find yourself having to explain to the kiddos that Jesus didn't get an Xbox 360 on his birthday.

I've decided to go solo on this year's Annual Janicek Christmas Newsletter as last year's collaborative effort made Elise a little too popular. If you know anything about me you'd know that I have a fragile ego and if there's one thing in this world that will help me maintain my level of coolness, it's this newsletter.

If you didn't get last year's collaborative newsletter then that means that we probably didn't like you at this time last year. Or we didn't know you. Or we weren't sure if we didn't like you so we put your newsletter in the "we might not like these people and we'll send them a newsletter if we have any leftover stamps" pile.

We obviously either know you or like you now because you're reading this. If you're not reading this then that means we ran out of stamps.

So we hope this newsletter finds you all well. Man, what a gas this year has been for Elise and me. It's been a hootenanny. A real humdinger. A plethora of new, exciting adventures and changes in our lives.

We spent last Christmas in Des Moines with Elise's family. I finally had my first White Christmas!!! I went out on Steve and Joanne's backyard deck on Christmas morning and while full of holiday glee, I built myself a 10" snowman. My snowman took me all of four minutes to nearly complete before I ran inside crying because I could no longer feel my extremities. Joanne heard the commotion and ran downstairs to find me and said, "Josh, put your clothes on. It's 2 degrees outside."

I've been to Des Moines four times now. I've been there when the temperature was 102 degrees in the summer and when the temperature was 2 degrees this past December. Frozen conditions aside, we had a fantastic time last Christmas with the Boeckmans. We had the opportunity to spend time with Elise's brother, Eric and his lovely girlfriend, Kim. We also were able to spend some great quality time with Grandma Thurston as well as some of Elise's longtime childhood friends. Steve and I ducked out one day and hit a few electronics stores where we were able to be nerdy men, scratch, grunt and say things like megapixels, dpi and RAM.

Fitting family travel into a short amount of time is always tough, especially when traveling to arctic countries like Des Moines. It's always hard for Elise to part with her family and it's getting much harder for me as well as I continue to blossom as the blessed son-in-law.

So on with the rest of 2005. Early in the year my wife went off and got all old on me. Elise turned the big 3-0. To commemorate the occasion we threw a big party. We played fun games like: Which Dentures are Mine, Will This Fit into a Bedpan and Pimp My Walker. In all seriousness we had an absolute blast. Jenni McMichael organized it so that their good friend Kari Fletcher could fly in from St. Paul to surprise Elise on the big day. We had a ton of friends come over for food, drink and dancing through the wee hours of the morning.

My 30th birthday will be upon me later in January and Elise has already made mention of something about tapioca pudding and sky diving.

Things at Wellness Works are going great for your humble narrator. We've been doing fantastic on all fronts so much that my boss and I have recently been discussing strategic partnerships, mergers and acquisitions. I've been keeping things running relatively smoothly and hired an Office Manager earlier this year who has been nothing short of a God send. I still wear the majority of the hats at the office and have foregone giving myself daily tasks. Instead I try to go into work every morning with a clear head and handle best the issues du jour.

Elise is ever-persevering as the Catering Director for El Arroyo. She too has begun to comfortably rely upon and delegate to a key employee who has helped make her job less taxing. Catering is a demanding job that requires long hours, many of which are nights and weekends. Regardless of schedules, Elise and I have managed to work around them and find quality time to spend with one another. When Elise isn't around I manage to find equal quality time with Riley so I can teach him to eat things like olives and drink any kind of beer other than Miller Lite.

Speaking of cats, Riley and Annie are doing great. Annie has grown to the size of a New Zealand Wolverine. Elise says Annie is fat. I like to think of her as husky. Either way, she could kick any cat's ass in the neighborhood. I wish I could say the same thing about Riley. He just likes to talk and beg for Jell-O.

The Spring months seem to have just blown by. The Texas Summer was soon upon us and I found myself thinking, "Hey, Josh, it's 105 degrees outside and humid as all Hell. This would be the perfect time to build a deck!"

And that's just what I did. I designed a deck and summoned the help of friends and family to build it. With the help of my parents, my brother Keith, my best friend John and Elise, I had a large deck in the backyard after a month's worth of work. It was a tough job. I spent countless hours alone late at night and on weekends screwing in deck boards and nailing down rafters.

# Happy New Year 2006



Building a deck was not only hard on my back, but it was hard on the wallet as well. A few weeks after completing my backyard deck, my boss invited Elise and me to accompany him and his wife to Las Vegas for the Amerisource-Bergen National Healthcare Conference and Exposition. It's hard to go to Vegas and have much fun after just having funded a major home addition. We still managed to have an awesome time while in Las Vegas. This was Elise's first time in Sin City and she and I both had an absolute blast.

Four days after returning from Las Vegas, Elise and I took a much-needed vacation to Cabo San Lucas. Holy Guacamole (that's Spanish for the Xbox 360 Savior) we had a fantastic time! I can't put into words how much fun we had. Baja California Sur is a gorgeous part of Mexico. It's so beautiful that we bought a timeshare at an exclusive resort at a price that neither you or we could afford. I thought that money wasn't an issue at the time because our salesperson had me all hopped up on Mexican beer.

"Shhhure. I like Meshcico. Weee'll come here evvvvery year!" *Hiccup.*

We temporarily forgot about our vacation package investment and went about our vacation. We went deep sea fishing and caught tuna, dorado and sailfish. We went parasailing. We ate at nice, local restaurants. We enjoyed massages at the spa. We went shopping. We rode on ATVs and toured the Baja. We went on a sunset cruise. We swam in the ocean. We rode in a glass bottom boat in the Sea of Cortez. We sat on the beach and drank fruity drinks. We indulged, forgot about everything at home and enjoyed our time alone as a happy married couple in a Mexican paradise.

It was hard coming home from that fantastic vacation. I was quick to get out of our Mexican timeshare contract. It took a little legwork on my part but after providing some legal documentation, the resort's membership manager was quick to refund all of our money and cancel our contract after a polite threat. In a way it was fun to think that we had a little vacation spot in Mexico and thankfully I managed to get out of any financial burden so we are now able to look back on our romantic vacation in Cabo with fond memories.

So after a fun and exciting Summer, Fall was soon upon us. And that's when we decided that our family needed to grow! It had been a long time coming and we had always questioned whether or not we were ready for such a commitment. After a couple weeks of discussion we decided to just go ahead and do it. We waited until we both had time off of work and had some quality time to spend with one another. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was a Sunday. We were finally alone together and had a quiet day all to ourselves. We drove out to one of our favorite spots called PetSmart and bought two fish. Opaline Gouramis to be exact. We named them Tony Soprano and Carmella and boy, are they two little bundles of joy.

Okay, damnit, enough of the tomfoolery and beating around the bush. Most of you probably already know and for those who don't, again, we're sorry, we ran out of stamps. Elise is pregnant!!! As a matter of fact, as I write this she is exactly halfway through the pregnancy. As you're reading this right now she is halfway plus one month pregnant. I can't begin to explain to you how excited we are right now. The only words that come to mind are "did you make an itty bitty poopy?" and "how the hell am I going to pay for this kids' college education?!!"

It's been a fantastic experience thus far. Elise has been doing great. Luckily she hasn't fallen victim to morning sickness, clairvoyant paranoia, ~~violent gas~~, exhaustion or emotional breakdowns.

All is well with the mom- and dad-to-be as well as baby. Since August we have heard the baby's heartbeat twice and have seen two more-than-thrilling ultrasounds. Our doctor says Elise is having a very healthy pregnancy.

The baby's due date is April 21st. If you know Elise, you know that that translates into early-Summer. We've been preparing for baby as most first-time parents do. We've begun thinking about what we're going to do with all of our unused crap that's currently occupying "the nursery" and we've been trying to come up with names. Elise and I have decided to wait until our baby's birthday to find out the sex of our first-born.

Again, I can't put into words how excited we are. We lovingly think of our baby as he or she grows comfortably inside of Mom. We anxiously await the day that we come home with our new addition and I can finally bequeath the annual Christmas newsletter.

I'm not going to make any promises, but in next year's newsletter you may find words like, "cute", "the funniest thing you'd ever seen", "gorgeous", "precious", and "then the little shit puked on me."

We're looking forward to it. Puke and all.

So until then and as always, we wish you and yours the very best this year. Let us all strive to give more of ourselves and fill our hearts with nothing but love.

Love always,

Josh & Elise

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