



December 2023

Welcome to the Javors' short and sweet summary of the year.

♥ Nathan: fifth grader with considerably more homework, projects, and extra-curricular activities compared to fourth grade. He started percussion lessons and joined band, and he still occasionally enjoys practicing piano and cello. He has hinted that he would like to play football, an idea that has been shouted down by all his music teachers; one of them may have suggested tennis instead.

♥ Rachel: graduated eighth grade with straight A's in June and is relishing the additional freedoms (and responsibilities) that high school brings. Her favorite subjects are algebra and biology. Also in June, she made the decision to be baptized at the Loma Linda University Church; her family was so happy and proud to be by her side. By next Christmas we expect she will surpass Mom in height.

♥ Ed and Gina: our traveling tradition continues. Gina accompanied Rachel on her eighth-grade trip to Washington DC in March, immediately followed by a family excursion to Cancun over Spring break. After a quick return to Cabo San Lucas to celebrate our 24th anniversary, we packed up the kids for two major summer trips: Thailand in June with family friends the Suphols and Ramoses, and the Bahamas in July prefaced by a short stop in Washington DC.

Gina lost her grandmother Grace Olivia Lopez-Porras after a brief illness in June, while she was visiting us to attend Rachel's baptism. Her favorite verse in the Bible was Job 19:25, *I know that my Redeemer lives*. We miss her every day.

We'll be spending Christmas and the New Year visiting New Zealand and Australia, including plans to watch the fireworks at Sydney Harbor. May your holidays be merry and bright!

The Javor Family