

Autumn Greetings from the Halversons!

We love living in Utah, especially in the Fall! Though we grew up in very different environments (Lisa in OR & Taylor in MN), we've been pleasantly surprised by the beauty & opportunities available in each season of Utah. Utah winters are certainly far more tolerable than Minnesota winters, according to Taylor. Of course, temperate Lisa has a different view on the extremes of cold & hot!

We've enjoyed some fun family outings learning more about the West, including Utah. Taylor took the kids hunting for 500 million year old trilobites one weekend in the west desert of Utah. A week later they scavenged mountains of the Wasatch Plateau for birds-eye rocks. Then we all traveled to the "Longest Art Gallery" in the world to see the 1000 year old petroglyphs of Nine Mile Canyon, Utah.

In early June we viewed the beauties of nature & mankind at the Glen Powell Dam, Lake Powell, Marble Canyon, the Grand Canyon, & the Hoover Dam. The trip included time with Lisa's family in Mesa, AZ, where the youngest nephew, Troy, son of Bobby & Jessica Rampton, received a name & a blessing. In July, we enjoyed 10 delightful days in Oregon with Lisa's parents & sisters Sara & Meta & families.

The kids are growing up & continue to be a delight to us. **David** (7) has now entered the 2nd grade & loves it! Outside of school, he enjoys violin, martial arts, origami, Star Wars, reading, & playing with Rachel & friends. **Rachel** (4) could not wait to begin preschool! Taylor enjoys daddy-daughter time taking her in to BYU preschool in the morning. Rachel enjoys violin, dance, reading, Barbies, & playing with David & friends. Rachel & David are great with other people, are curious, & generally kind & sweet kids. Our children remind us of King Mosiah's admonition in the Book of Mormon to "becom[e] as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things" (especially when they are asleep!).

Lisa is starting her 5th & final year of PhD work in Instructional Psychology & Technology. She continues to enjoy the research challenges & the collaboration with fellow researchers. Her dissertation focuses on the creation of a framework for learner engagement in blended learning settings. Lisa also thrives as a teacher. Ratings are very high for her World Civilization course, *History of Learning*.

Taylor loves his work & colleagues at BYU's Center for Teaching & Learning. He is also proud of the progress made by the Creativity, Innovation & Design group (see <http://innovation.byu.edu>) to partner with a variety of groups on campus, including the library, to create an experimental innovation space in the library. Five interdisciplinary innovation courses are being taught in this space this fall, including "Illuminating the Scriptures: Designing Innovative Study Tools," which Taylor co-teaches with Jeff Sheets (director of the BYU Laycock Center for Creative Collaboration). Taylor has been academically productive with numerous presentations & publications, all in the name of fun! See more at <http://taylor.ctl.byu.edu>.

A highlight of this year was the tour to the Holy Land that Lisa & Taylor led. Joining the group were Taylor's parents, Richard & Kathy, & his brother Ryan and his wife Anna. We created memories to last a lifetime.

For those interested, we are planning a Book of Mormon cruise in December 2015 with stops in Honduras, Belize, & the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico (<http://bountifultravel.com/tourdirectors>).

With Love,

Taylor, Lisa, David, & Rachel

The Halversons

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Easter Sunday (April)



Jerusalem (May)



Family Photos (August)



1st Day of 2nd Grade (Aug)



Afternoon Preschool (Aug)



Petroglyphs at Nine Mile Canyon (August)