

## MORELAND TIMES 2011

Some years the things that most affect your life are not happy, positive, or easy to share. This is one of those years for us.

### Craig Goes Home

On April 9 Craig Hopson, the husband of Mari Beth's sister Melinda, passed away after a battle with cancer. His suffering ended, but the family is filled with heartache. Your prayers are appreciated as Melinda and their two children, Chandler and Macy, face the reality of life without Craig and the entire family mourns.

We are reminded of the fragility of life and how precious our time is with our loved ones.

It was a blessing to see a glimpse into Craig's life as we were in Montgomery for the funeral. His life had a profound impact on so many people. Many strangers to Melinda came to tell of the ways he had helped them through hard times in their life. He was faced with the question, "Why me?", but his response was, "Why *not* me?" as he saw his situation through faith that God is in control.

### Monty's Accident (by Monty)

On November 17 I was a mile from home on my normal bike commute when a car going the opposite direction turned across my bike lane directly in front of

me. Despite my bright lights and reflective yellow jacket, the driver did not see me because of other vehicle traffic. The momentum of the car combined with my 20 MPH speed caused quite an impact. I broke out the car's passenger side window with my left elbow and seven ribs on my left side were broken (3 of them broken twice) as I struck the door frame between the front and rear windows. It was quite a scare as Mari Beth got



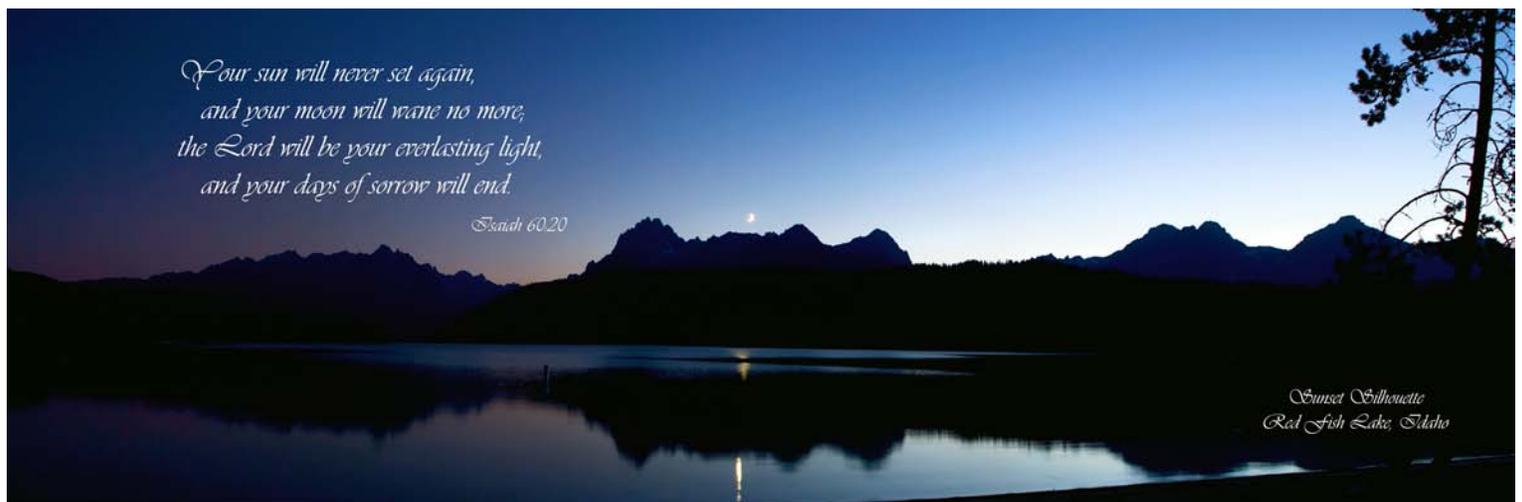
the call from me, barely able to speak from shortness of breath, "I've been in an accident..." Many people stopped and assisted me. Several witnesses gave their time to provide their perspective to the police and helped to ease the pain of dealing with insurance, etc. The car driver was cited. I ended up with a two day stay in the hospital and months of recovery time. The end of December will be another x-ray and checkup to see how the

ribs are healing. They appear to be healing normally, so the hope is to resume biking in January... with additional and brighter lights.

As I reflect on this close call... it could have been so much worse than it is... God has revealed some insights about pain. We were not made to live a pain-free existence. Even Jesus himself came here to suffer and die. So, it is obvious that our longing for something that cannot be attained in this world points toward another place that is the reason for life. This is exactly the message he has been telling us all along.

I cannot choose the accidents that happen to me, but I can choose my response to them as I fly through the air before I hit the ground.

The image below was taken on September 1. When I took it, I knew it was special. God revealed the significance of it to me as I worked on it after my accident. The scripture from Isaiah is longing for that day. "Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more, the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end." It is dedicated to Craig and the others in our lives that have left us, especially those who are gone prematurely.



This sunset is a beautiful example of what keeps us coming back to Red Fish Lake year after year. Monty is working to print canvas gallery wrap prints of this and other images of Idaho... soon to be available on our photography web site [ImageIdaho.com](http://ImageIdaho.com)

**Monty & Mari Beth** (by Monty)  
 We are enjoying Idaho, raising a family, and growing together. My day job is still being a linux systems engineer for Boise State and



I'm trying to re-make the photography business. Mari Beth dreams of relaxing on warm, white sandy beaches. For some reason she stays here and keeps educating our children, making a lovely home for us, and encouraging friends.

**Kendall** (by dad)

Saty. Life has changed forever. What else is there to say?

**Kendall #2** (by dad again)

Kendall is a senior. He tried out and got an acting job as a spook at Field of Screams... he is very proud that this was his first job.



He is looking forward to going to Boise State next Fall.

**Abby** (by Abby)

This year I've been doing lots of homeschooler-ish things like crocheting and knitting. I even opened up an online shop to sell my creations. And I'm still chugging away at my



blog. You may want to visit me there sometime to catch up on recent happenings. I'm also in my freshman year, which is exciting. Although nothing is really that different. But at least I can say I'm a freshman. I love to capture the beauty and simplicity of every day life through photography, and am very privileged to get one-on-one lessons from the professional, Dad, and to use high quality cameras. <http://followinggodeveryday.blogspot.com/>

**Mattie Grace** (by Mattie Grace)  
 I am 9 years old (dad note: that means she is in the 9th grade in homeschooling). I love to crochet and read books. I'm reading a Nancy Drew book called The Bungalow Mystery. This Summer I hiked with my Dad



up to a place called Table Rock. It was so long and it kept going up forever and ever. It was way faster going down. When I got to the top it was so high that I could see all of Boise.

**Amelia** (by Amelia)

I am six years old. I like to draw. I am really hoping it will snow and I couldn't wait until Christmas. I got sick at Christmas this year.



by dad: Amelia is a fun loving 99% sweet little monkey that loves her family and still makes us all laugh frequently.

**Family Adventures**

We will round out this letter with a few pictures of our adventures.



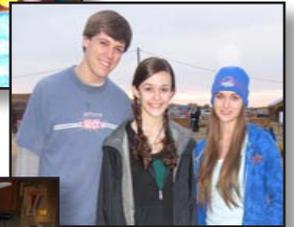
< Fall festival

Monty & Kendall at a Boise State game.



< Mattie's 9th Birthday

Kendall, Saty & Abby



< Amelia's Kindergarten Graduation.



Merry Christmas by Mattie G.

Our Family by Amelia >

