

**Posts written by Alex and Kathy on Gideon's CaringBridge Journal  
November 23, 2011 – July 23, 2012**

**Written Nov 23, 2011 6:01pm**

The facts as they are for the moment.

Gideon has Rhabdomyosarcoma originating from his bladder. For those of you who speak English he has a muscular cancer growing out of his bladder. Friday he and Kathy will be medivacked to Portland to a pediatric cancer unit. Monday we will meet with the cancer doctors down there to determine the best course of treatment for our micro man. The hope is he will start chemotherapy on Tuesday.

**My First Thanks Giving**

**Written Nov 25, 2011 4:40pm**

Yesterday was my First Thanks giving. I woke in the hospital the way I have all week but my parents said I would be seeing my brother and sisters soon. At 10 Anti Diane showed up at 1 Clyde and Peggy arrived, at 4 the mayhem began. Not only did I get to see Memaw, I got to see Kaylynn, Evie, Adah, Jace, Anti Carmen, Uncle Gerald, Uncle Vaughn, Anti Marylyn. I got to spend about 2 hours with Memaw. My Mommy and Daddy spent most of their day with me waiting on my every need lucky for them I didn't need much. I stayed really late watching my parents pack because I am supposed to be flying to Portland to be entered in clinical trials and start my chemotherapy.

**In Portland**

**Written Nov 27, 2011 6:41pm**

Gideon had a good night last night. However, swelling occurred again and he was not able to pee - there is talk about adding a shunt to the kidneys. This is a bit discouraging. Hopefully everyone can get back to Anchorage as soon as possible.

**Written Nov 28, 2011 11:31am**

Gideon is slated to have tubes put into his kidneys so his blood pressure should come down. He is retaining over a gallon of H<sub>2</sub>O which is causing lots of problems so if we can get his kidneys to drain properly it should fix his problems, except of course the actual problem cancer in his lower abdomen. I, Alex caught a direct flight out of Anchorage at 12:30 AM got here at about 6:30 slept on the plane and a little here. I showed Kathy and Gideon a play our other kids r put on, an adaptation of Tangled.

**Written Nov 28, 2011 1:01pm**

Train, train if I would know I would get train toys I would have gotten sick a long time ago. I just had pictures taken of my chest. Shortly the doctors are going to come and do an operation on me so I don't hurt so bad and so I'm not so swollen

**Written Nov 28, 2011 5:32pm**

Gideon is sleeping off his anesthesia. Surgery went well, took about an hour. His kidney function is still good the puffiness in his face is going down had he has drained out over 400cc of fluid since the operation and he has a long way to go. We are hoping for a big difference by morning. He may have a MRI tomorrow to see if they can remove the tumor. We are hoping to avoid radiation but it may be necessary. We just really need wisdom in the best way to proceed they would like to remove the tumor as would we then we may be able to have the chemo happen back in Alaska. I'm staying here until we have a definite plan with a time frame. Kathy is much happier since we are seeing action and results

**Written Nov 29, 2011 4:34pm**

Kathy and I went on adventure today. This place has a sky bridge that is 1/8 of a mile one way and by counting the floors below it is about 12 stories above the road

**Written Nov 29, 2011 4:41pm**

Kathy is updating face book and I am updating this today has not been all fun but we are trying to not be stuck. On the medical front the tubes in his kidneys are working well. His BP is lower and in general he is happier. The surgeons are looking at films of the tumor to determine the best procedure to do. The obvious answer is the tumor needs to be shrunk or removed, the trick is they have to get it all. Cancer is the enemy, but radiation is not our friend either. If they can remove it all he won't need radiation. Radiation can; stunt his growth, make him sterile, fry his bladder, and a myriad of other unwanted side effects. We want the tumor removed in it's entirety so there is no radiation, now you know how to pray about the tumor. There is a good chance that after the surgery we could return to Providence. If the entire tumor is removed and no radiation is needed we will not have to return to this place. Obviously we want to go home

**Written Dec 1, 2011 4:44pm**

My Aunt Sharon arrived this afternoon, we are Happy to have the company and hugs. Gideon had a big day today and it is not over yet. He started his day with an ultra sound of his kidneys, they are still there. This afternoon he had new main line put into his chest. A main line is used do blood draws but doubles as an IV so he does not have to be poked all the time his old one was not working for blood draws. He also had a feeding tube run through his nose, it is temporary. He has not had much to eat since all this started 2 weeks ago and he has become accustomed to not eating. Tonight he is going to start kemo. If he responds well he may be able to return to Alaska soon for their remainder of kemo. For now he is resting comfortably.

**Written Dec 2, 2011 8:51pm**

Gideon slept through his first round of chemo. I think it helped that he had a full stomach, for the first time in days. So far he has had no adverse reactions to it. Today we had the usual gaggle of doctors come through. We have a case worker that is arranging for our return to Ak. The doctors are hoping to get us out of here on Monday. That is barring adverse reactions to the chemo. Aunt Sharon and I did some shopping in preparation for the return trip. Kathy and I went on an adventure today, we rode the

tram to the bottom of the hill and sat in the hot tub at the athletic club that is part of the hospital and swam a few laps as well. He is on blood pressure medication and it is now in the normal range.

### **Written Dec 3, 2011 7:23pm**

Today had a different pace to it we had our usual gaggle of doctors through. Aunt Sharon left this afternoon, we were thankful for the company and sad to see her go.

Other things that happened that were unusual for us was a parade of local motorcyclists their destination was the Ronald McDonald House, all 4000 of them it took over a 1/2 hour to drive by. I was touched by the gesture being a biker that is to busy farming the ride. I saw about the last 100 bikes go by. Kathy and I are in training to provide Gideon with the proper home care he will need; daily shots as well as caring for his central line and nephrostomy tubes. We got to give Carmen, our nurse, shots to make sure we know what we are doing. Gideon was definitely feeling better, playing with us and restfully sleeping.

### **Written Dec 5, 2011 2:47pm**

We just cleared TSA in Portland. Now we have to wait for 2 hours to get on our flight.

### **Written Dec 6, 2011 9:01pm**

We made it home last night. This morning we were greeted by our other children coming to snuggle starting at about six thirty a.m. Gideon seemed most pleased to see Bubba, his big brother. Memaw spent the day holding Gideon. It was Kathy's and Gideon's first night at home in 16 days. We are scheduled for chemo on Thursday, but we are going in in the morning, Gideon double sneezed his feeding tube right out his nose. We are going to try feeding him the old fashion way and maybe he won't need it any more.

### **Written Dec 7, 2011 10:58pm**

Today was quite a hectic but good day. This morning we went into providence to replace the feeding tube that Gideon sneezed out last night. The interesting thing was that on the way home I (Kathy) gave Gideon a bottle and he drank it. Later on he drank a whole feeding that way and then tonight he breast fed and then fell asleep. Tomorrow we have round two of chemo. So pray that all goes well that he has no major side effects.

### **Written Dec 8, 2011 10:33pm**

Gideon had his second round of chemo today. Had to have his feeding tube out back in again, the boy sneezes and there it goes. Good thing we were going to town anyway.

We are hoping that next week it can be removed, he is eating on his own, but it is easy to get him to take his medication. For the fun news he got to see his first Christmas tree today. The girls decorated it in record time and it looks splendid. It took them about an hour, we put it in front of the staircase and they were able to decorate it top to bottom.

Kathy and I are adjusting to life back at home, it is going to take some time to establish a new "normal".

**Written Dec 9, 2011 9:14pm**

Today has been a good day, so far. We have done our daily Gideon maintenance except for his nightly shot to help with his white blood cell count. We are happy we are done with his second round of chemo to bad there are 38 more weeks and treatment on the schedule. Kathy and I appreciate the help we have received from friends, family, and local churches. We appreciate all gifts for helping us through this hard time, some who have been down similar roads realize how expensive continued treatment and hospital visits can be. Thank for the support.

**Written Dec 10, 2011 11:16pm**



My heart is heavy, er tonight. My Aunt Sharon who visited us in Portland fell yesterday and almost broke her neck, she has gone through spinal surgery and is recovering now. So please take a look at the picture and remember to pray for Gideon and his great aunt Shanon and their families who are trying to pick up the pieces of life that seem to be unraveling so quickly.

**Written Dec 11, 2011 11:34pm**

We are starting to see Gideon's personality come back more, it has been a long time since he has felt like himself. Kaylynn and Evie had their Christmas concert the last two nights. It was nice to go and enjoy their concert. Gideon has been all ears and smiles when the gang comes home. Sharon is slated to go home tomorrow, which is good news. I'm amazed at how quickly some things can be fixed in the human body.

**Written Dec 12, 2011 9:05pm**

Tonight we find ourselves back at the hospital, Providence. In situations like the one we are living through there is no such thing as a paranoid parent because we don't want to think about the consequences of falling asleep at the wheel so to speak. So to sum it up he's a little off and a little can turn to a lot off real fast. Kathy grabbed her overnight bag and I will be off to home soon. Hopefully to bring them home tomorrow and if this goes sideways we'll let you know.

**Written Dec 14, 2011 1:12am**

I just remembered that I should update this. Gideon and Kathy are still at Providence and are likely to be there at least through Thursday. Gideon apparently has some form of a bladder infection. Our urologist wants to remove his nephrostomey tubes next week and put in shunts to allow him to use his blader properly again. Nephrostome tubes are prone to infection and the more infections he has the worse they will become as they will respond less to antibiotics and as the chemo in general compromised his immune system. Jace and his 3 sisters and I braved the roads this afternoon to have KFC with

Kathy in Gideon's room. We stayed about 2 hours, Kaylynn is spending the night in Anchorage with friends so she can have the day with Kathy tomorrow. And Tomorrow is Kathy's birthday so we will be going in again for ice cream cake and presents

**Written Dec 15, 2011 9:28am**

Yesterday we all loaded back into the mini van to go back to the hospital to celebrate Kathy's birthday. I had left Kaylynn in town with friends over night so Kathy could have company all day long. Gideon is terribly cute but he doesn't say much. So in the afternoon it was off to DQ for an ice cream cake and then to Providence to eat it. The doctors still don't know what is causing Gideons fever but he cut 2 teeth on Tuesday night and is working on a third. Today is round 3 of chemo 37 more to go. We are hoping Kathy and Gideon can come home today but until they find the source of his fever they are stuck at the hospital.

**Written Dec 15, 2011 10:42pm**

Went in without the kids today, Kathy and I got Subway but it got her out of the room for about 45 minutes. Gideon's fever is gone, all the cultures are clean so if the fever stays away over night he and Kathy should be able to come home tomorrow. Our regular web page is updated and if you would like to help out financially we will have a link to help with the financial needs that will continue to occur. Gideon and I had a great time this afternoon watching Sons of Guns. I really hope I can bring them home. Today Gideon had his chemo while listening to a quartet down the hall, while I was there we got to see and pet a therapy dog.

**Written Dec 16, 2011 10:59pm**

Kathy and Gideon were able to finally come home. The 5 of us piled in the mini van to bring them home. We had a pizza party when we got home. We are hoping for no more mystery fevers, they take longer to diagnose than one that is actually caused by an actual problem. But the reality is with the chemo any ignored infection could cause major complications. So even fevers caused by teething need to be verified as such. We are just looking forward to being a complete family again and enjoying it as long as it lasts. I forgot to put my web address in last night's posting, [adfarmorganic.com](http://adfarmorganic.com)

**Written Dec 17, 2011 10:32pm**

Well we shared a new experience today, Gideon took out his NG tube which is nothing new but instead of the usual trip to the hospital that ensues we put some of our training and observations to work and we did it ourselves. It was a little frightening but we got it placed properly so it will be meds as usual. It is really nice to have Kathy and Gideon home again. Everything just seems to go better when we are all together.

**Written Dec 18, 2011 11:24pm**

Kathy and Gideon are on night number 3 here at home. And we are hoping for many more. Gideon is settling back in quite well. We are starting to get in to a sense of rhythm back into our lives. We are on Christmas vacation so there will be more time to play with the kids.

**Written Dec 19, 2011 10:21pm**

Gideon is scheduled for surgery Wed morning 6:30. So the three of us will be going in tomorrow night so much for setting a new record in our own home. He's currently drinking out of a 60 cc syringe with milk in it, go figure. He's loosing his hair but he's got his spunk.

**Written Dec 21, 2011 7:04am**

Here we sit at Providence again told to be here at 6:30 procedure not until 11:00 apparently our time and desire to be at home doesn't count much some days. Today is supposed to be an outpatient day then we get to come in again Thursday for his 5 day stretch of chemo. Gideon and Kathy will be here through Monday. Gideon's first Christmas will be spent in the hospital receiving his chemo. We are trying to figure out a way to salvage Christmas with our other kids, not going to be easy.

**Written Dec 21, 2011 10:41pm**

We made it home, even if it is brief. We opened Christmas presents with the kids when we got home. Gideon came through his procedure with flying colors and down one tube. Tomorrow we go back to start 5 days straight of chemo, Gideon will be admitted for the 5 days because the chemo can carry some significant and unpleasant side effects. So the plan for now is for me to drive in every day and to bring in the kids every other day for a few hours so we can all spend time together. One of our college professors and his wife came by today we all had coffee and lunch together while Gideon was in surgery

**Written Dec 23, 2011 10:20pm**

Where to start? Just got back from visiting, brought the kids in with me had a good time. Our friend Peggy held Gideon while he slept and while the rest of us went to the Hickel House. Came home to a house full of presents so the kids and I agree to open them after chores in the morning. Gideon is on again and off again with his new catheter. I had never thought about it but the bladder is a muscle and he has not used it for over a month now. So I suppose it needs to be worked out to get back into peak fitness.

**Written Dec 24, 2011 10:47pm**



Gideon spent his first Christmas Eve in the hospital. Along with his mother. I was trying to get in but the only thing that would start was the snow machine, since I didn't want commute 110 miles on it down the freeway I thought it best to stay at home. Hopefully it will start better tomorrow. We all want to go in for Christmas day.

The kids opened more presents I'm not sure there is enough room for the wrapping paper and empty boxes. To all of you who have donated to our cause, thank you.

**Written Dec 26, 2011 10:21pm**

For me it has been a very long couple of days. We went in for Christmas at the hospital the kids has a lot of fun I believe it put them up to about 5 sessions of opening presents. Kathy opted to keep us all in Anchorage for the night. Kathy took the rowdy 4 to the Hickel House while I took Gideon for the night. The visit went well but the fuel pump on my van died, so now we have to take care of that on top of everything else. We are hoping to bring them home Tuesday, but it looks more like Wed and then it will be back again Thursday for more chemo.

**Written Dec 27, 2011 10:54pm**

Kathy and Gideon are still at the hospital. The doctors are trying to figure out if his bladder is causing blockage to the rest of his system or if his chemo is causing his GI tract to stall out then cause his bladder to slow as well. If it is an effect of the chemo then there is nothing to be done about it. If it is a bladder issue it could mean more surgery. Please keep praying that the tumor will shrink rapidly and that his bladder will resume normal function. We are hoping for a return trip home tomorrow for the two of them. Dad is letting me borrow one of his suburban. So for now the vehicle issue is resolved, going to the car doctor tomorrow.

**Written Dec 29, 2011 9:29pm**

I brought Kathy and Gideon home last night. Any time spent at home is welcome. We drove back in this morning for a doctors visit and chemo this afternoon. If Gideon stays healthy we don't have to go back until Tuesday to see one of his doctors to help determine future courses of action. While I'm thinking about it we would like to thank the congregation of Lazy Mt Bible Church for their generous donation to help us cover the costs we have and will continue to incur. Many other people have given as well and we really appreciate the ability to keep the gas tank full as well as our stomachs while at the hospital. It has been a true blessing to not have to worry about going broke during many trips into Anchorage. For those of you who keep up my van is now fixed but it is still in town I'm working on a plan to get it back. I have plans for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday that don't involve me going to Anchorage unless there is a medical reason to do so.

**Written Dec 30, 2011 10:51pm**

I just got back from dropping Kathy and Gideon off at Providence. Gideon is running a fever. So it's back to blood tests and urin tests to see which of the usual suspects is popping it's ugly head up. Sometimes I feel like we are playing whack a mole with his health, but for us there is no fun involved. Hopefully this is much to do about nothing but we don't which mole has teeth.

**Written Dec 31, 2011 10:52pm**



Went in tonight with Peggy to see Kathy and Gideon, I got Kathy out of the hospital for a while, took her out for Chinese and shoe shopping. I would like to take a minute to talk about the photo. Obviously I am holding Gideon but in my hands I have what is know as a string of cancer beads. Each bead represents something different, yellow are days spent in the hospital, others types of chemo, others needle pokes. I will try to get a full list of each type. Needless to say it is already 3ft long and it includes nothing for the past 7 days. It is designed to help people visualize what he he is going through.

**Written Jan 1, 2012 10:51pm**

Gideon is still admitted at Providence. As of now he will stay admitted until he stops having fevers and starts putting on what precious little weight he can. The girls start home schooling in the morning we will see how it works out with me being Kaylynn's teacher.

**Written Jan 2, 2012 10:15pm**

Just got back from round tripping it into Anchorage to see Kathy and Gideon. He is putting his weight back on even if it is in small increments. He is still spiking fevers and will be staying in the hospital until they stop he will have to stay in the hospital. AJ is flying in tonight to help out for a few days it will be nice for Kathy and I to have the help and company.

**Written Jan 3, 2012 11:14pm**

We had a good time today at home today. AJ and her brother Caleb came by today they hung out for a while, helped with a few jobs, ate lunch, talked a lot. Laleia spent some time with Kathy and Gideon. As of now he is slated to come home for the day tomorrow. Then it will be back for chemo on Thursday. Hopefully we will have a longer home stay this time around.

**Written Jan 5, 2012 9:00am**

We do have a little good news. Gideon has put on a pound in the last week. He and Kathy are still at Prov. he will have his 6th round of chemo today. He is still having

feavors and his Urologist is trying to find a way to get his bladder to empty normally. This isn't easy since it has a tumor pushing on it

**Written Jan 6, 2012 12:07am**



Went in and saw Gideon and Kathy tonight. Gideon is going to be in the hospital until Monday, or longer. The Docs are running some tests and thinking things over. We are going to have a volunteer take over Gideon's care for the night on Friday so I can bring Kathy back for about 24 hours.

**Written Jan 7, 2012 2:34pm**



Yesterday after a harrowing few days of him trying to pee on his own and the nurses trying to put catheters in, Gideon had surgery to put a tube into his bladder through his abdomen. When the urologist did this he took a good look around at Gideon's urethra and bladder. He was encouraged by what he saw. He was expecting to see cancer in the urethra and the bladder but there wasn't anything. The reason Gideon has such a hard time peeing is because the cancer is pushing against his prostate which is pushing against the bladder and urethra making it painful to pee and difficult to place a catheter. He believes that once the tumor shrinks more Gideon will be able to pee on his own and the port in his abdomen will be removed. This is good news but allow me (Kathy) to be a little pessimistic, we still have the effects from the future radiation to deal with and radiation can be very hard on his GI track and his bladder. The wonderful providence arranged to have a sitter come and stay twenty four seven for as long as I wanted so I decided to come home for Twenty four hours and judging from my kids reactions it was a good decision. Gideon is still fighting off the virus but his fevers are decreasing and his white blood cell count is still good. They believe that by Monday he will be able to come home but he needs to be well recovered from surgery and fevers gone before that happens. Since he has been

hospitalized he has gained a pound which is wonderful to see but I would still like to see him put on at least two more to get him back to his original weight.

**Written Jan 7, 2012 3:50pm**

Kathy and I are headed back to Anchorage shortly. Gideon has continued to spike fevers last night and today. They are running some tests, his blood work and urin continue to be clean so they are thinking it may be a sinus thing which is about the only place they haven't been able to test. There are a lot of kids at the hospital with RSV so we need people to pray that he is not exposed to that as well.

**Written Jan 9, 2012 10:11am**

Gideon and Kathy are still in the hospital and will continue to stay there until he stops having fevers, some top out at 104 but seem to leave him none the worse for where.

They did a CT scan on Saturday, we got the results on Sunday, they were looking for any signs of infection and found none. The scan did show that the tumor is starting to soften which means the chemo is doing it's job. The death of the tumor can cause fevers as then it is shrinking and dieing it can release chemicals in odd concentrations that make it hard on the immune system. The picture I took when I took Kathy back to the hospital on Saturday 199999 miles it's my newest vehicle and has the highest mileage of any of mine that are on the road.

**Written Jan 9, 2012 10:25pm**



Just go back from town Gideon and Kathy are doing well. We are still trying to figure out why he is having fevers and they will continue to test until they find the problem or until they quit. So for now that is the pattern.

**Written Jan 10, 2012 11:45pm**

Today they did a ct scan on Gideons head to see if he had a sinus infection or anything else hiding. The results showed nothing and neither has any of the other tests so they believe the fever to be a result of the dying cancer cells going through his system. As far as when we can leave the hospital the easy answer is that I don't know. They said maybe tomorrow but he has Chemo again on thurs and it is his normal chemo and the chemo that is once a day for five days. It is very likely that Gideon will remain in the hospital while he gets those chemos. Pray for the fever to end. It makes him miserable and makes bringing him home harder

**Written Jan 12, 2012 5:47pm**



I'm in town dropping Kathy off with Gideon. I brought her home last night for a few hours off. We came back to the hospital be greeted by a very happy little boy. He is back on his first day of Irinotecan which is a 5 day set of chemo, that will last through Monday. Hopefully he will be able to come home early next week.

**Written Jan 14, 2012 10:31pm**



Took the kids into Anchorage for the night Friday afternoon. We spent the night in the Hickie House after spending the evening playing and talking with Gideon. You sure can tell that he likes having the gang around him. We are possibly going to be able to bring him home Sunday, he is having none of the major side effects so far with this type of chemo. I will have to bring him in again on Monday to finish the session but that is fine if we can start having days home again. It has been about 48 hours since he had a fever and he is starting to pee on his own. I'm not sure how what that is all about but if his natural plumbing is working without causing him pain I'm all for it.

**Written Jan 16, 2012 9:50pm**



Brought Gideon and Kathy home today. We are happy to have them, hopefully it will last.

**Written Jan 20, 2012 10:58pm**

We're still home! Gideon did fine with his chemo and transfusion yesterday. I don't know who likes him being home more him or the rest of us. I have a request of you, next week we are going to be interviewed by a local TV channel and I am wondering where all of you are at just states and countries I know there are a lot of you in Alaska, Minnesota, Michigan, Idaho, and Iowa so if you harken from those parts we got you covered. Need to know by Tuesday morning. I just took the picture of him next to me on the couch.

**Written Jan 23, 2012 11:45pm**



Still chilling here at home tonight is the 8th in a row and in the last 8 days I have driven to Anchorage only 2 times usually it is 4 or 5 trips a week. Gideon is definitely feeling better he is sliding on the floor, not quite a crawl but it is darn close and he is covering distance. If we can keep holding in this pattern our lives will become much more normalized.

**Written Jan 28, 2012 10:59am**



We're all still together as a family. Wed we met with the urologist about the tubes in Gideon's body coming out. The tubes in his ureters are going to be removed before the trip to Portland as well as the super-pubic tube that comes out of his belly. The tumor appears to be shrinking and he is very active. Gideon is within ounce of his precancer weight which is wonderful to see.

**Written Feb 2, 2012 5:16pm**



We have been admitted again, not because anything is wrong but because today his chemo is a total of 10 hours worth the treatment. We were in bright and early this morning but they did not have a room for us until 2pm. We got word yesterday that Kathy and Gideon will have to be in Portland the 23rd for chemo that day. So we are looking to fly out the 21st or 22nd of the month. Our fundraiser at Hott Stixx is the 20th so we are looking a busy week then. Also before then he will have to have his stints and super pubic tube replaced or removed, we are hoping for removal.

**Written Feb 9, 2012 10:37pm**



Gideon is doing well, to the point that if you didn't know he was sick you wouldn't know he is sick. We are looking at a busy few days coming up. We need to prepare for my mom's arrival Monday, Gideon's birthday Wednesday, chemo Thursday, and surgery Friday. Expect more updates next week. Speaking of next week our family story will be airing on TV next week, on channel 11 if you are in state. IF you are out of state you can catch it on their website after it airs. In other related news I was able to go to my market all day for the first time since mid November it took a while for it to sink in but it was the first time I did what I do for a living in 3 months.

**Written Feb 15, 2012 11:00pm**



Happy birthday to Gideon! Boy do I love my pillow pet and ice cream cake. Chemo as usual in the morning and surgery on Friday afternoon. Chanel 11 should be airing our story at 10 tomorrow.

**Written Feb 17, 2012 12:43pm**



Last night our story aired at 10:00 You can find the story at [ktva.com](http://ktva.com) Palmer Infant's Family copes with baby's cancer diagnosis is the title. Gideon was just admitted for surgery to have stints removed as well as his permanent catheter. There is no more room at Hott Stixx for the fundraiser. There will be an after dinner party for those who can't get a seat. We are already talking about having another for those who can't get a seat.

**Written Feb 17, 2012 10:18pm**



surgery today went well they removed the tubes as planned and so far post op he is doing well. We got to come home after the surgery as planned and he is back to playing and crawling around, The Urologist said he could tell that just from looking at the bladder and urethra he could tell that the mass is shrinking.

**Written Feb 23, 2012 10:27am**



It has been a wild and crazy week for us. Monday nights fundraiser at Hott Stixx was a wonderful time. We greatly appreciate the support of the Anchorage community as well as the support of the businesses I, Alex, have worked with. The food was grate as was the company. Thanks for the wonderful memory to take with us to Portland. Tuesday we thought we would pack and get ready for our flight on Wed, we were able to pack but it was in the midst of Kathy cleaning up puppies, Cocoa our Great Pyrenees female had a litter of 12 starting at about 9am and ending at about 3pm.

Tuesday night I went out to do night time chores, 10pm, to find Dot, my big sow and about 10 of her little friends in the goat and horse pen not the pig pen were they belong.

So I called Kathy and we got to chasing small pigs and getting them to hop the fence where they went over. Dot was the hard one to move she more smashes things than hoping over them, but she is about 800lb. Then Kathy and I had to fix and reinforce the fence; get the 2X4 and some fencing and start pounding staples in the dark at 11pm.

Then it was up at 7am, after 6 hours of sleep, time to do chores one more time before heading to the airport. Said good by to the kids and it was off to the airport at 8:45am.

The flight went well Gideon slept for most to the trip. When we arrived in Portland we were greeted by my college room mate Adam, who I haven't seen in almost 11 years, between the two of us it's 9 kids latter since we shared a house. We had a lot of fun catching up on life and seeing the streets of Portland, all of them. We are settling in here at the Ronald McDonald house and currently waiting for Gideon's chemo which should have started 3 1/2 hours ago, looks like he will be spending the night in the hospital hopefully the rest will be out patient. Chanel 11, KTVA Alaska, has the fundraiser up on their website as a story, nicely done.

**Written Feb 24, 2012 8:20pm**



Today Gideon had a CT scan and got some X's marking the spots. We are going to try and get out of here in the morning and be back on Monday. Gideon doesn't have an appointment until Wed unless something goes wrong. So we want to go and explore Oregon. The funnest thing of the day was me bear wrestling.

**Written Feb 26, 2012 8:48pm**



Kathy and I took a sanity break for the weekend, I rented a car for the first time in my life, we loaded up the boy and headed for the coast on Saturday morning. We took I5 and drove past the old farm, where my father in law lived until he was about 12. We zig zaged across Oregon until we hit 101 then we turned north. We spent the night in Lincoln, this afternoon we met up with Adam, my college room mate, and his family for lunch and play time with his kids. We left there in time to make it to Cannon Beach before dark, then it was a blitz back to Portland. Tomorrow Kathy and I are going to make a few trips to where Gideon will be getting his radiation so she knows where to go before I go home.

**Written Feb 28, 2012 8:21pm**

So Alex set me up so I can update caring bridge but for the moment I am without my camera cables to you'll just have to imagine Gideon and his adventures. We are settling into Ronald McDonald house it feels a bit like living in a dorm room in college which is a switch for me but I am getting used to it. Gideon is feeling the loss of his siblings, he seems to think that I must play with him all of the time but I guess I don't have anything better to do so it works out. We have an appointment to see his specialist tomorrow so I should have more details about what is in store for Gideon then. For now he starts radiation on thursday and will have it everyweek day until April 13. This was disappointing to hear since it means Gideon and I will miss Jace's third birthday. My sister Diane and our oldest daughter Kaylynn will be here on friday night and Gideon and I are looking forward to the company. Alex told me that when he got home there were many cards waiting for him and we want all of you to know how encouraged you make us feel. We cherish all of your guestbook entries and cards. We are blessed by you.

**Written Feb 29, 2012 4:39pm**

Gideon and I met with his specialist today, so I'll give you the highlights. Surgery appears to be out of the question. The MRI showed that the tumor has shrunk and that it is coming from his prostate and only pushing against his bladder. They do not want to do surgery because it would mean removing part of his prostate which will cause problems throughout Gideon's life and even after surgery they would still need to do radiation. Since the tumor is no longer impeding Gideon's urinary system they will kill the cancer with the radiation and then leave the dead tumor rather than try to remove it. Radiation will start tomorrow and will end April 13. Gideon has the next two weeks off of chemo but radiation can cause nausea, diarrhea and exhaustion. Every day Gideon will have to be sedated for radiation which means he will not be able to eat for a few hours every day so hopefully he won't lose the weight he put on. Radiation has long term effects to that we are praying he won't suffer from. The radiation could affect his growth plates in his pelvis and vertebrae and it will probably cause sterility.

**Written Mar 1, 2012 10:38pm**

So I have been asked why if the tumor is shrinking because of the Chemo why Gideon needs to go through radiation. The Dr.s have put off radiation as long as they can. Traditionally for this type of cancer they do radiation as soon as the tumor is found. They didn't do this with Gideon because they wanted to shrink the tumor and narrow the field of radiation. They can't wait any longer because the risk of the cancer becoming resistant to the chemo becomes more likely. Radiation will keep that from happening and kill the tumor. Every Dr I have spoken to wishes they could skip the radiation but to save Gideon's life it is necessary.

**Written Mar 3, 2012 3:56pm**



We just got word an hour ago that my dad, Tim, was in a bicycle accident in Arizona today. My mom, Lynn, is up here helping me, Alex, with the kids while Kathy is in Portland. Obviously this causes a lot of stress and plans to go out the window. He has a broken collar bone and a few cuts on his face he will be spending the night in the hospital and we are trying to figure out if my mom should fly down to take care of him. Please pray for us during this additional time of stress. Kathy is enjoying having Kaylynn, our daughter and Diane, Kathy's sister as company. They went and toured downtown Portland today.

**Written Mar 6, 2012 11:53pm**



My dad, Tim, is back home and resting. He's in lots of pain and lucky to be alive. He's going to be laying low for a while. Kathy, Gideon, and Kaylynn are surviving Portland and settling in to the routine of radiation in the morning and boredom the rest of the day. We are trying to keep our heads above the snow drifts.

**Written Mar 14, 2012 10:45pm**



I thought Kathy would have updated this at some point but she hasn't. Kaylynn is back home with me. My dad, Tim, is on the mend he is back to work but it will be a very long time to fully heal up. There may be some permanent nerve damage to his left side. My mom, Lynn, is still with me. Gideon is holding up well to the schedule that he is on, radiation 5 days a week but this week he also has chemo every day. He is losing a little weight because he is not allowed to eat for several hours before his radiation treatment due to sedation. So they are changing the amount of food he gets each feeding. Our friend A.J. is with Kathy right now spending part of her spring break with Kathy. They have been adventuring Portland, Kathy went to Macys today for the first time in her life.

**Written Mar 17, 2012 9:21pm**



Gideon is just over 1/2 way through his radiation treatments. On the AK front we had an event full day, Chickie Cheeses and the zoo, Jace's first time to the zoo. The last time Adah was there she was younger than Jace. Yes this does make

me the craziest man in the room. I took 4 kids between 8 and 2 to Chickie and the zoo by myself. We survived and even had fun.

**Written Mar 25, 2012 7:52pm**



I'm in Portland visiting Kathy and Gideon for the weekend. We've had fun running around town. Today we went to Mars Hill Church Portland and then to Eugene this afternoon and back, saw lots of sheep along the highway. Mars Hill meets in a church building that is 102 years old, this congregation started to meet in January and had about 200 people at it. It was not what I was expecting in some regards. I would have been in the older 30 percent at age 36 we sang 2 hymns with contemporary music and then had a message on marriage that was about 1 hour long. I expected much more music and less teaching I am very happy my expectations were wrong.

**Written Mar 27, 2012 8:21pm**

I'm back at home and we are now starting the final count down until we can bring Kathy and Gideon back home, 7 more days of radiation treatments and hopefully returning home on the 11th. Gideon is feeling bad today and Kathy is trying to hold up to the boredom and loneliness.

**Written Apr 2, 2012 8:38pm**



Wednesday will be Gideon's last day of radiation. All this week he had chemo and it appears Monday he will have a follow up visit. Saturday Evie and I are flying in to Portland to help pack and bring Kathy and Gideon home on the 11th. The Gideon has been sick a lot and Kathy is suffering though perpetual boredom. The kids at home are definitely showing the strain of separation hopefully my mom, Lynn, can keep them together while I'm gone.

**Written Apr 5, 2012 11:16am**



Yesterday was Gideon's last day of radiation. Please pray that he will put on some weight, there are some rumblings from doctors about keeping him there until the 24th so he can put some weight on. Kathy and I are not happy about that idea at all. Kathy's mom, Darleen seen below with her newest Grandson, leaves here the 12 to go to Iowa to visit her 92 year old mom for a month. My mom, Lynn, leaves here the 15 and had eye surgery the 17th in Arizona. My dad, Tim, is on the very slow mend from his bicycle accident several weeks ago. He and my mom are slated to leave Arizona the end of the month to go back to South Dakota for the summer. Needless to say all of this puts a big strain on Kathy and I while we try to work things out with the doctors. Gideon's health is of great importance but it is measured with the importance of keeping a stable household as well. Monitoring his weight could be done in Tibet as well as Portland as far as I'm concerned. The radiation is what he went there for and it's done. Evie and I are still slated to go to Portland on Saturday and return on Wednesday, hopefully with Kathy and Gideon in tow.

**Written Apr 12, 2012 7:40am**



We are all home, it may be short lived but we are all home. Kathy, Gideon, Evie, and I all flew back from Portland yesterday. We swung by DQ for an ice cream cake and to Pizza Delphi for pizza to go so we could have a welcome home party/ birthday party for Jace, who turned 3 on Tuesday. We need to take Gideon into Providence today to get his doctors up here up to speed as to his condition. His weight is holding steady for now but he has lost 2 lb he didn't have to lose, which puts him in the 16lb range. If you remember in November when he was diagnosed he was over 17lb. He is still strong and he has gotten taller but it just makes him look all the more fragile. So now we are all going to have to reestablish our life routines after 8 weeks of being separated. Farming season is quickly approaching and we're not ready but I still have a foot of snow on parts of my fields.

**Written Apr 12, 2012 11:48pm**



Kathy and Gideon are at Providence for the next couple days. We took him in this morning for a check up and while there he spiked a fever of 101, he also had low potassium, and dehydration. It appears that he has a urinary infection, we will know more Friday. We know he won't be released until he kicks his fever we are hoping for a quick diagnosis and release, last time he was admitted for a fever he spent 18 days in the hospital. So please pray that all goes well. We are also changing his feeds to help him with weight gain.

**Written Apr 16, 2012 9:34am**

Were to begin. Thursday we took Gideon in to Providence to have them take a peak under the hood, change the spark plugs, and rotate the tires. What we discovered during his maintenance check up was a bladder infection, and bacteria growing in his central line. So it is hit him with antibiotics to kill the bacterias. The kink is that he needs 14 straight days of having clean blood before they will let him come home, yesterday was day 1 if he stays clean 13 more days to go if he grows bad stuff the clock starts over. Last night I dropped my mom, Lynn, at the airport so now I am on to being Mr Mom a solo act for a couple days. On Tuesday Hannah, one of our friends and employees, will be moving in to help with the kids and all other work that comes up. We need to get the atrium ready for doing starts and the closer summer gets the more work there is to be done around here and I can't do it all while trying to entertain kids and break up fights. Kathy and I are both tyred and frustrated. I have been to Anchorage 4 of 5 days, I'm glad it's no longer -20 or snowing but it feels like all I do is do chores, break up fights, and drive. I am very greatful for Sid and the guys that came and helped finish the upstairs without there hard work it would have not been a possibility to have Hannah stay here to help out.

**Written Apr 18, 2012 11:14pm**



Katy was able to score a 24 hour pass. Check out the picture to see what she does with her time. This is in one of Ray's hay fields.

**Written Apr 22, 2012 12:45am**



Took the kids in to see Kathy and Gideon this afternoon. We had a great time. Gideon looks good, he's put on some much needed weight. We should be able to bring him home on Friday, if he stays healthy enough. Friday is also a fundraiser being held at Lazy Mt Bible Church. There will be a potato bar, silent and live auction.

**Written Apr 24, 2012 10:58pm**



We went in to see Kathy and Gideon today. He is just over 19 pounds which means he has put on about 2 1/2 pounds in 2 weeks. He was fitted for a leg brace, one of the side affects to the chemo is sleepy foot, and since he is learning to walk he needs the brace so he doesn't hurt the ligaments in the ankle. It is still looking good for coming home on Friday.

**Written Apr 29, 2012 8:54am**



Kathy and Gideon have been home for 2 nights. That is the longest stretch in 9 weeks, ok they weren't home the entire time they were in Portland but it has been 3 nights spend here in 9 weeks. It is looking like Gideon's cousin is coming down with chicken pox, please pray that Gideon can avoid getting them. All of our kids have had them in the past. We had a great time on Friday night at the Lazy Mt Bible Church fundraiser. We can't remember when we laughed and smiled so much. They had a desert auction and Kathy's family took the cake at \$30 a slice. It was hilarious to watch.

**Written May 3, 2012 7:53pm**



Wed was my, Alex's, birthday and I got exactly what I wanted. Kathy and Gideon were able to stay home so we did not have to celebrate in the hospital. Gideon has been able to avoid getting sick while the rest of us suffer to some degree or another. He is up to over 20# which is the heaviest he has been in his life. He walks along furniture and when he got home he went straight up the stairs having never done that before. As an update to the fundraiser we thought we would mention that it was a great financial success as well as an emotional one, we received over \$14000 in one night of fun and mayhem. Thank you all who helped make it a success.

**Written May 8, 2012 9:09pm**

Here's Gideon and his oldest't sister, Kaylynn, on his 9th day home.

**Written May 15, 2012 9:38pm**



I feel a little delinquent in this but on our front no news is good news. This week Kathy and Gideon are back in the hospital for 5 days straight of chemo. If there are no complications they will be home on Friday night. Things are getting hectic here at the farm there is a lot to do and the clock is ticking. I am adding on the photo that was supposed to attach last post.

**Written May 26, 2012 6:59pm**



I need to update this thing. Here's the short version. Gideon was readmitted on Tuesday for an infection. Today, Saturday, there was talk of doing a CT scan it may yet happen. Monday I fertilized my fields, Tuesday I worked on a fencing project, Wed more fencing, Thursday we planted transplants, Friday we did a full acre of potatoes, then I drove in to bring Kathy home to help plant carrots. This morning I tried to pass a kidney stone, hopefully I succeeded. Kathy is now on her way back to the hospital having gotten all the beets, parsnips, and carrots in the ground. Monday is Adah's birthday is Monday, Evie's is about 10 days later and it looks like Gideon will be in the hospital for all of them. I would have written sooner but I have been generally cranky and stressed all week about the hole situation. I took the picture on Thursday. The kids made up 1/2 of my planting crew.

**Written May 28, 2012 8:41pm**



Today was Adah's birthday. Many times I heard what every parent loves to hear "I'm the luckiest girl in the world" She got a brand new bike and many other things. I went in to the hospital early this morning to bring Kathy home. Gideon apparently loved his day with the nurses. I wasn't able to take Kathy back to the hospital because either I haven't passed my kidney stone or I have an other one to pas. Gideon will be in the hospital for at least 12 more days, which means he will miss Evie's birthday as well. I wish I had happy things to say but the best moment of the day was when Adah got on her new bike and headed down the driveway smiling the hole way.

**Written May 31, 2012 11:25pm**



Not a lot of new news, I took the kids in to see Gideon and Kathy yesterday. We had a good time and were able to be outside on hospital grounds. My kidney pain is lessening. Kathy may come home for 24 hours this weakened. Gideon had an ultrasound of his kidneys today, apparently he and I are like twins and feel each others pain. Waiting to find out the story there.

**Written Jun 6, 2012 10:29pm**



This morning they did an MRI. They found that the mass is larger now than it was in January. We are not sure what this means. The best case is that the radiation is causing the cancer cells to become angry before they die. We may well be looking at surgery to alleviate the increased pressure on Gideon's bladder and possibly another biopsy to see if the cancer is in fact dieing. The team of Doc's here will be contacting the docs in Portland to see what they think. They may want us to go back down to Portland. At the moment there are alot of unknowns.. Kathy is home for Evie's birthday tomorrow .

**Written Jun 8, 2012 9:43pm**



Yesterday was Evie's 7th birthday, she was our temporary bright spot for the day. Last night at about 8:00 Gideon has surgery to help drain his bladder. The tumor is not breaking down as expected and is starting to cause blockages again. Next week he will probably be having an other biopsies to determine what the tumor is actually doing, dieing or growing. Obviously if it is growing we are in for altered treatments and a road we don't want to restart on after 6 months of already traveling down a road that has been a nightmare thus far. Kathy and I are both at the end of our ropes the long separations and constant stress is starting to get to us. We are not seeing a light at the end of the tunnel any more, if there ever was one.

**Written Jun 9, 2012 8:38pm**



Having a fun day today. We went to the Colony Parade this morning. This afternoon we came in to see Kathy and Gideon. We are spending the night at the Hickie House. No rush to go home for the night or for the day tomorrow. Gideon appears much more happy without the intense bladder pressure. The kids are playing on the playground in the picture outside the Hickie House.

**Written Jun 11, 2012 9:31pm**

Gideon has a biopsy Tuesday, please pray that it does not come back a live cancer. If it is live cancer it a mutating cancer which means it is already adapted to 4 types of chemo and radiation. So as always cancer bad. On the upside he and Kathy should be able to come home with me after surgery. I am in town tonight since we got 5 miles toward home before the hospital called us to bring us back.

**Written Jun 12, 2012 9:54pm**



Gideon had his biopsy today, we are not sure how long it will take to get the results back. We are kinda happy to exist in the moment of not knowing. As they say ignorance is bliss. For now we are all home for the first time in 3 weeks. We intend to enjoy it while it lasts.

**Written Jun 12, 2012 9:54pm**



Gideon had his biopsy today, we are not sure how long it will take to get the results back. We are kinda happy to exist in the moment of not knowing. As they say ignorance is bliss. For now we are all home for the first time in 3 weeks. We intend to enjoy it while it lasts.

**Written Jun 24, 2012 9:25pm**



We are all still at home. Gideon is holding his own, the other kids are doing well. My dad, Tim, flies in tonight to meet Gideon for the first time. He will be here for a few days. The farm is holding it's own thank God for good employees, because I'm in Anchorage at least 1 day a week to take Gideon in to the Dr. For now the boy is on the farm playing on the trampoline and having a good time.

**Written Jun 27, 2012 11:48pm**



Been having a great time with my dad being here. He flies out Thursday afternoon. Gideon also has a surgery in the afternoon. He is having his central line removed. There is little point to leaving it in. He is no longer receiving IV chemotherapy, and he no longer needs the blood draws to check his counts. If he gets any types of infections we can treat it with oral meds instead of IV. We are all going in for the day, child life is going to spend some time with the kids trying to help them cope with Gideon's cancer.

**Written Jul 4, 2012 9:15am**



It's quiet this morning, 9:15 and everyone is asleep but me Gideon is snoring away in the chair I left him in Last weeks surgery went well. We brought all the kids with and they were able to make bears of remembrance, we got to paint Gideon's hand and then press it on shirts for the kids along with their own hand and Kathy's and

my hands on the back. It will be a tangible reminder of their brother they will always have. Saturday was Kathy's and my 11th anniversary, I'd like to say we had a good time but our hearts are too heavy for that. We enjoyed each other's company and did some shopping. It has been a great benefit to have Kathy's sister Marilyn and her husband around. She's a paramedic so we just leave her with the boy and the meds and we don't really have to worry about anything. We have hit a nice routine of all of us being together, Jace finally wants to be with his Mamma at times. We are trying to be happy some times and at times we even achieve it, but our hearts are heavy most of the time. We will have our usual 4th pick nick at Mom and Dad's place it is always fun to watch the chaos that is 10 cousins all in the same place as all of our kids play with each other.

### **fixed the link**

**Written Jul 13, 2012 11:21pm**



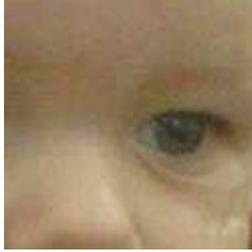
We had a photographer come out today and we got family photos of Kathy's side, 3 generations, 12 kids under 12, 7 of them 5 or under. Vaughn was the only one that wasn't here, darn Doctorate classes. Gideon is winding down, more sleep, more pain, less play. If you would like to see some of the photos check them out at: [http://gallery.alaskaphoto.net/Agriculture/120713-Davis/24156121\\_czcqwd](http://gallery.alaskaphoto.net/Agriculture/120713-Davis/24156121_czcqwd) the password is gideon our photographer has given us permission to share with you all.

**Written Jul 16, 2012 8:35pm**



Gideon is back at Prov. It looks like the end is near. We had the kids in for the afternoon, I love yous and kisses all around for their little brother. We have his pain under control and his heart is starting to slow on occasion. I am spending the night here with Kathy, we sent our kids home with one of our pastors Attached is a picture of Gideon riding with me on a tractor, all 5 of our children have watched how the planter works by looking over my shoulder.

**Written Jul 17, 2012 9:43pm**



Gideon died tonight at about 5:30. We are all at home. The kids were in today to say good by before he died and then again after his spirit left him.

**Written Jul 18, 2012 11:34am**



We are looking to have Gideon's funeral Saturday afternoon, at Lazy Mt Bible Church. You can call their office for a time, as of right now we don't have anything finalized. I'm not going to guarantee I will continue to update this for the next few days. But I am sure there will be more updates as I have time and emotional capability

**Written Jul 23, 2012 8:33am**



What a busy week. We are emotionally and physically exhausted. Last night Kathy's sister Diane and her kids went home, last night was the first night it was the 6 of us in 17 days, very quiet. It is going to take a while to get used to the quiet and feeling like we forgot to load one of the kids. In the next few days we will be adding some of our thoughts to our website.

Gideon is home with Jesus now. We are left here trying to pick up the pieces of our family and business. Kathy and I keep talking and we all keep yanking the weeds out of the ground.