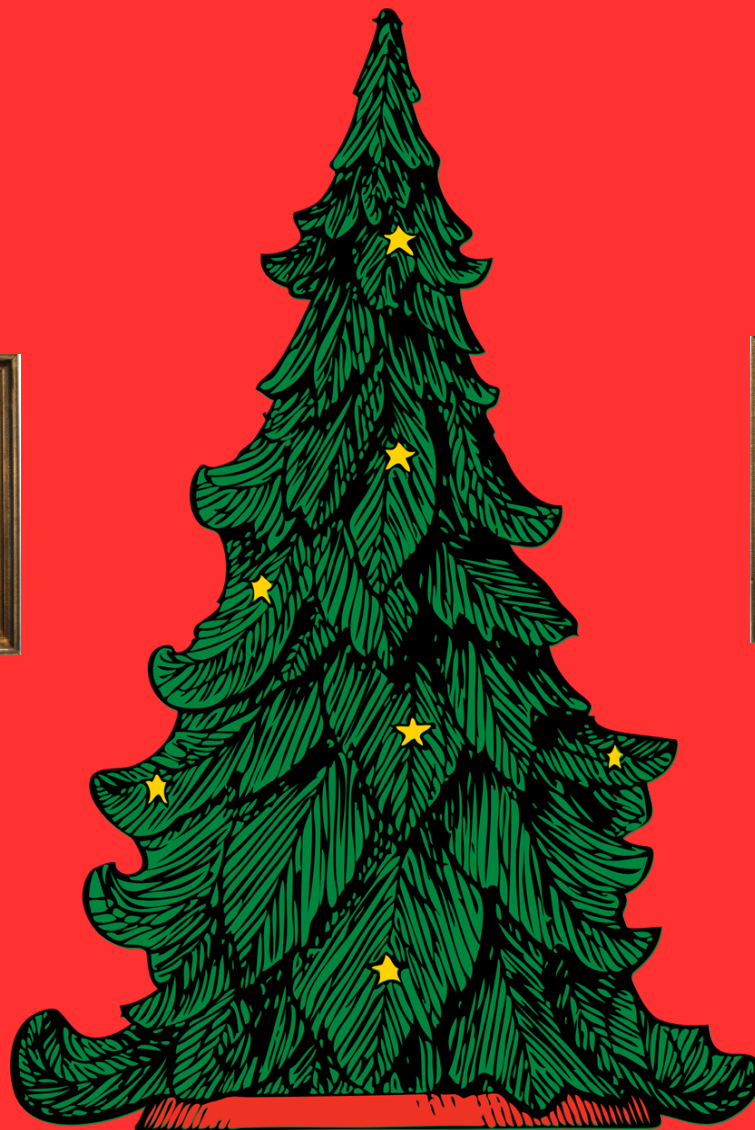


# The Story of Our 2024



From the Joneses:  
Tom, Laura, Max, and Lindsey

[Flip Book Link](#)

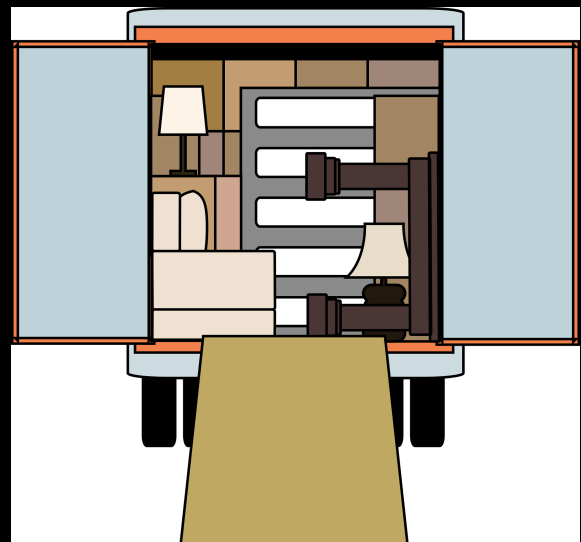
# Black January

As you all know, by now, we had to leave our beautiful little farmhouse in East Texas. I'm sending a picture of the home we loved so much because you wouldn't want to see *us*. We were all in tears.



We spent the month crying and packing.

On January 27, the moving van drove off with most of our possessions.



# Forlorn February

We spent three days driving to St. Louis, just because none of us wanted to get there. On February 1st, we moved into our new lodgings in a big ugly apartment building. It was the only place Tom had been able to find. We'll have to stay here until we can find something else we can afford.

Most of you know by now that, although Lindsey's little puppy, Poopsie, is allowed to stay with us, Max's pit bull mix is not allowed. All of us missed Koby, but Max was so miserable he couldn't even eat his favorite food - tacos.



There it is. Our new home town. We live somewhere in the middle of that freezing cold, concrete jungle. Max and Lindsey just moped around the apartment after school for most of the month of Feb. They didn't know what to do with themselves without any cows and chickens and trees and a dozen cats. And, of course, Max is lost without Koby. We had to leave him with the older couple who live down the road from our old place. They were happy with him because he's a good guard dog. But they wouldn't put the phone to his ear so Max could talk to him. After all, he's just a dog! Max tried hard to think of somewhere else for Koby to stay, with somebody who has a little more imagination! But he couldn't find anyone else who had room for such a big dog.

## Sorry Spring

It was the end of the world. Koby ran away! Max spent the whole spring trying to find Koby long distance. He made phone calls, sent letters, posted on Facebook, and cried himself to sleep every night. All his friends back home searched every nook and cranny in town and country. No Koby.

Of course, Max has loved basketball his whole life. I've done everything but stand on my head trying to get him to join a team - at school or in town or ANYWHERE. But he doesn't have any spirit left in him.

Here's the object of Max's endless spring searches. Do you remember Koby? Isn't he a sweetheart!



This March/April/May was the longest, coldest, saddest spring the Jones family ever spent!

# Jubilant June!

Koby was found, and Max came to life! We were all delirious with joy - the kids because Koby was safe; Mom and Dad because Max was himself again.

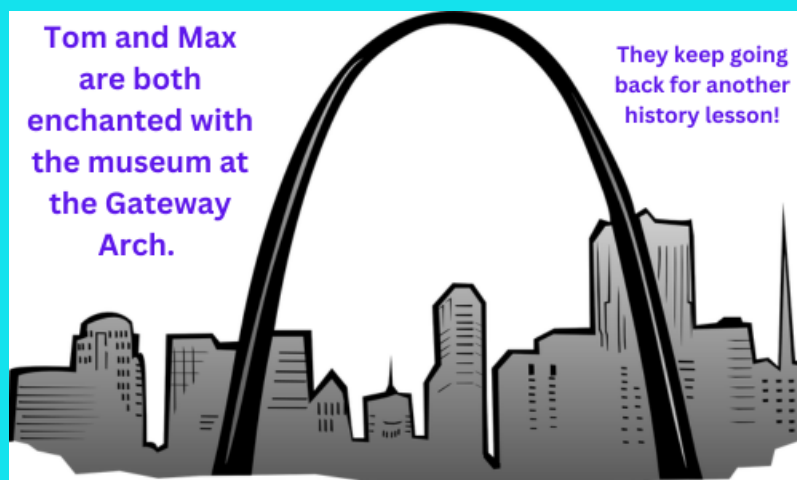
The girl in the picture is Lexi. She found Koby after he ran away last March. Someone told her about Max's Facebook post in June, and they connected. She puts the phone up to Koby's ear, and Max talks to him. Then Koby howls, and Lexi says he smiles.

Lexi is a few years older than Max, but they're best friends now. They both love Koby, and they both love basketball. So, they text and facebook and phone each other all the time.

Koby is going to stay with Lexi. Her mother was just diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and she said having Koby there has been a comfort to Lexi.



Lindsey learned to swim this summer. She took to the water like a little minnow, and wants to go to the pool every day!



Tom and Max are both enchanted with the museum at the Gateway Arch.

They keep going back for another history lesson!

# July Jamboree



## Home for the Fourth of July!

**We all went home to Texas for the Fourth of July. Then, the kids spent the month of July with their grandparents. Tom and Laura headed back north after the Fourth, and Laura finally found the job she had been looking for. She is now a lab tech at a hospital.**

**We were so proud of Max. Of course, the first thing he wanted to do was go get Koby. Their reunion brought tears to our eyes, but Lexi was crying, too, because she knew Max wanted to keep Koby with him while he was in Texas. But when he saw her face, he convinced her that he wanted Koby to stay with her if he could come visit every week while he was with his grandparents. Lexi and her mother said he should come every chance he got. And he did!**

**Of course, Lindsey showed off her swimming to her proud grandparents who sent the kids home spoiled rotten at the end of the month!**

# August Author

In August, a lady in Laura's Sunday School class told her about a program she could buy for only \$20. It's called Scribe, and, as Laura was listening, she got the idea of creating the ebook you're reading right now for the family Christmas letter. She started going through photos and dredging up her 2024 memories. It wasn't long before she decided to become a Christmas Greeting ebook author! And she has been having a blast with it!



Of course, August is back-to-school month. Lindsey loves school and can't wait to get back. Max is pretty excited, too. He's going to try out for the school basketball team, and he thinks he has a good chance of making it because Lexi gave him some pointers this summer when they weren't busy playing with Koby.



The Jones family was a lot happier about school this year than when we first arrived in St. Louis. The kids are making friends, and Max is excited about basketball.

# Fabulous Fall

Fall was crisp and beautiful with reds, golds, oranges, and yellows.



Lindsey wanted to go to the park every day, walk the paths, and crunch the dry leaves.

## Halloween Was Fun!

Here's a pic of Lindsey with her new friend Cindy. Max said he was too old for trick or treat. But he and his friends had fun at a school party.



## Our Blessed Thanksgiving



This Thanksgiving season helped us Joneses realize how ungrateful we were when we had to leave Texas. We are SO blessed, and God has always taken good care of us. We're starting to enjoy St. Louis, even if it is cold and a l-o-o-o-n-n-g-g way from our beloved farm. Max is the star of his basketball team. Both children have made wonderful new friends. And Tom and Laura both love their jobs. So, we all repented of our bad attitudes last winter and thanked God for His faithful goodness to us.



## December Days



We're looking forward to spending a week back home with our folks between Christmas and New Year's. We hope we get to see many of you that week. But, most of all, we hope you have a blessed Christmas and beautiful New Year!



**Jesus is the reason for the season!**