



Amazed - (*uh-meyzd*) adjective: greatly surprised; astounded; suddenly filled with wonder

This has been an amazing year! Not in the traditional sense where you think of extraordinary things happening, but in the ordinary sense. We are amazed at how God has shown His goodness to us in the midst of the ordinary. Here are a few reasons how...

We are amazed that we are now 55 years old and considered to be senior citizens by AARP and some local restaurants. Amazing. The years do indeed fly by. But for the time being we are blessed with good health. We both still deal with a few issues related to the accident 2 years ago but they are relatively minor in the scope of what so many are dealing with.

We are amazed by how much joy we find in being grandparents. Grayson is just over 1 year old now. It is absolutely amazing to see how much of a difference 1 year makes. He has so much personality. He is so outgoing and content and fun and brilliant and full of life (that of course is Pop-Pop speak)



We are amazed by our incredible kids. All of them are still trying to figure out the future but we are awed at how they trust God in the process. Here is a quick rundown. Christy and Chad and G are living in Clemson, SC this year. They are involved with Crosspoint Church doing a Church Planting Residency - which means that they are planning on being church planters and are preparing and training for that. Scott graduated from Southeastern Seminary in May and is currently a math teacher at Carington Middle School. He is very involved in ministry with The Summit Church here in Raleigh/Durham. He continues to be a huge OKC Thunder fan, a voracious reader, and has become somewhat of a foodie. Tucker graduated from NC State in May and then got married on Memorial Day weekend. He and Danielle (and their dog Charlie) are living in Wake Forest, NC - they are both working and he is attending Southeastern Seminary. They are involved at Imago Dei Church in Raleigh.



We are amazed at God's bounteous provision for us each day. Linda continues to work as a Middle School counselor at the school where Scott is teaching. This is her 10th year there. She continues to run/exercise and finds much joy in taking care of our home, being a mom and a Nona (her Grandma name) and drinking coffee. I (Shay) just finished my 20th year in ministry at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. I am overseeing our Discipleship process and short-term Missions among other things. I find in my old age that I am quite content doing nothing. I also read, blog, and am learning to cook. We are involved in a small group together with a great bunch of believers. We take walks together 3-4 afternoons per week. We are slowly eating our way around Durham, taking advantage of all the great restaurants in our city. By the way, Durham was just named the 4th best place to live in the country by Livability.com - we are very proud of our town.

We are even amazed at how God provides during the sad times of life. My stepdad Chuck passed away this year. He had been a good friend to us and a great husband for my mom for the past 37 years. It was amazing to hear how he had influenced so many people over the years through his role as teacher and friend. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in March (glioblastoma) and lived until October. His life was a reminder to us of how our lives can be used to shape and impact the lives of others.

Most of all we are amazed by God's amazing grace and the favor He has shown us in Christ. We both recognize that our lives would be very different had God not rescued us and reconciled us to Himself through the cross. We find much joy in this life because of what He has done and we are learning daily that our sufficiency and satisfaction are in Him.

We hope that you also are being amazed by the goodness of God and that this next year you experience His joy in awesome and surprising ways.



Much grace and peace!

Shay and Linda