

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



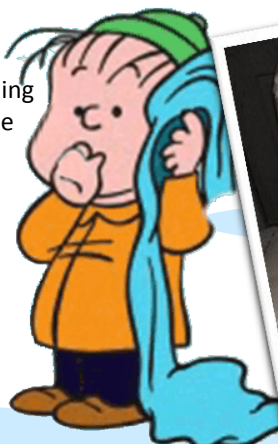
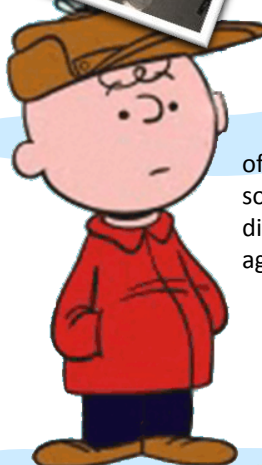
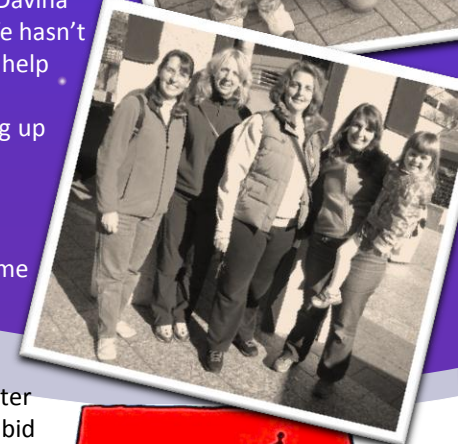
Greetings from Missouri! The year 2010 has been yet another fun-filled, action-packed year for the Gills. We kicked off the year at midnight Jan 1st with the local German fireworks going off all around us & even landing in our yard. It was quite a sight, but Corinne didn't quite make it - zzzzzzz. Corinne celebrated her 3rd birthday in style with a dog-themed birthday party. The rest of Jan was spent shoveling snow & going to baby appointments. We also found out that Robert had been assigned to Whiteman AFB in MO as one of the Mission Support Group's Deputy Commanders. We would be moving in Jul.

As Jan passed we knew the baby could come at any time & she did - Feb 3rd. Davina kept her broken water a secret for a whole day until she declared after dinner on Feb 2nd that it was time to go to the hospital. We called our friends Bill & Silvia Burns to meet us at the hospital so they could bring Corinne to their home. The night was dark & windy & snowy. It was a slow drive up the hill to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Davina checked in & Faelynn Francesca was born about 12 hours later. Life hasn't been the same since. Davina's parents came for 2 weeks in Feb to help out & entertain Corinne (or was it Corinne doing the entertaining?). March was spent adjusting to life as a family of four & Davina getting up the courage to venture out with the two girls - alone!

Apr brought a beautiful Easter & spring. Corinne enjoyed a fun egg hunt too. We sure do miss our Germany yard here in Missouri with our postage stamp yard & our twigs for trees. At the end of Apr Davina's sister Katherine came for a nearly 2 week visit. She was a great help as Davina & Robert cleaned out to prepare for the move to MO. While she was there Robert's parents also came. We all went for a trip (minus Robert) to The Netherlands to see the tulips. They did not disappoint us. Because of the cold winter & spring they were opening later than usual. Davina's parents also came for a visit & for Faelynn's baptism. We bid Katherine farewell & got ready for the baptism. It was a special day with all of Faelynn's grandparents present, our friend Father David Fitz-Patrick was there to baptize her...it was also Robert's birthday. After the baptism we had a nice party at the house. Davina's parents headed back to PA the next day.

At the end of the week we went on a trip to Switzerland with Robert's parents. We traveled to Bern, Interlaken, & Lucerne. One of the highlights was a trip up to the top of the Jungfrau by cog railway. What a sight to behold! After the trip Robert's parents said farewell to Germany & headed back to OH. We still had one more trip to go in May - a bus trip to Normandy. We boarded the tour bus along with Robert's cousin Kelly, her fiancé Marian, & Davina's Aunt Carol. It was a memorable trip as we visited the beaches of Normandy that became famous in June of 1944. We were there over Memorial Day so we were present for a special ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. We also visited Mont Saint Michel, a monastery on an island in the English Channel. The origins of the monastery date back to the 8th century.

With Memorial Day came the end of May & the beginning of serious packing & moving. We sorted, recycled, disposed, disassembled, packed, sorted again, & re-packed.





After some late nights & moving ourselves into one bedroom of the house, the packers arrived. Well we should say the packer. We had one guy pack for 3 days by himself. Then on the fourth day six guys showed up with the trucks & shipping crates & said we would be packed & moved that day...& we were 12 hours & 15 shipping crates later. Before completely moving out our friends Karen & Evie Bloom came to visit us from England. Corinne & Evie had a great time when we visited the Neunkirchen Zoo. Davina & Karen had a great time too – talking! After our friends left Germany we finished cleaning the house & moved into temporary housing. We also squeezed in one final trip to LegoLand Deutschland. Corinne enjoyed the rides & the activities. Finally it was time to say goodbye to our neighbors Ernst & Ilse Lang & our good friends from the base.



On Jul 9th we left Germany & flew to Baltimore. Davina's dad & sister Gloria picked us up & took us to PA where we visited for 1 week. Our dogs flew separately into Philadelphia...they were happy to see us. Together we traveled to Akron to visit with Robert's parents, his sister Amie & her family, & extended family & friends too. Lastly, we spent a few days in Dayton visiting Davina's Aunts Carol & Vivien & Robert's brother Donny & his family. Finally it was time to head west to Whiteman AFB. As we exited Interstate 70 for the base we saw nothing but trees & fields in all directions. Hmm...where were we headed for the next 3 years? Yes, the base is quite rural & surrounded by Knob Noster State Park on one side, the town of Knob Noster on another side, & farmlands on the other two sides. It is quite pretty here with trees & rolling hills. (The nearest Wal-Mart is a good 20 minute drive.) We drove onto the base & checked out the house we were supposed to move into. The neighborhood was still under construction...we would be in temporary housing a bit longer than expected – 18 days to be exact.



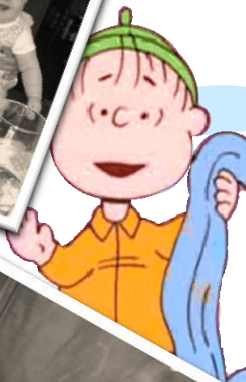
On the 18th day we received the keys to our brand new home. Our shipping crates arrived 11 days later – now the work of unpacking & settling in could begin. Robert kept us moving to unpack boxes & put things away. We were still giving things away & moving things on as we determined not everything was going to fit in the new house. Aunt Carol bravely volunteered to come for a few days to help unpack & pick up our 2nd vehicle in St. Louis.



As Sep arrived we were slowly settling in & learning our way around. Robert jumped right into his new job & got to work. Corinne started pre-school, dance class, & soccer school. Oct brought cooler weather (anything was cooler than the 100 deg it had been in Aug) & thoughts of autumn. We decorated for Halloween, visited a pumpkin patch, & Corinne dressed-up as a pink princess. Nov weather continued to be great! We hosted Thanksgiving for Davina's parents, sisters, & friend Dominic. We all stayed in the house & had a great time. Robert master-minded & prepared the feast. We did a trip to Kansas City too.



Corinne & Faelynn loved all of the visitors. As we write this in Dec we are preparing to drive to Ohio for Christmas & be back in MO for New Years. Corinne is enjoying all of the Christmas preparations & of course a visit by the man in red. Faelynn is crawling, cruising, & following big sister wherever she goes. We hope you have a great holiday & a happy peace-filled 2011! And remember if you're ever in the neighborhood, come by & visit. We'd love to see you.



web page:
www.twogills.com

Love, Robert & Davina
...and Corinne & Faelynn

