



Dear Family and Friends,

Welcome to the 2002 edition of the McGee family annual letter! 2002 was a whirlwind year for us, especially towards the end of the year (hence, the timing of this letter). It was definitely a year of blessings! If we had to name a theme for 2002, it would be "Thank you God for family and friends!" We started the year by moving into our new home in Greatwood. It is a perfect plan for us. All of the details came together seamlessly. We rounded out the year by welcoming the newest member of the McGee family into the world. Ainsley was born on December 18th. Members of our extended family (grand parents, aunts and uncles) provided support to us in every way imaginable to help us this year through the moving transition and Connie's pregnancy and delivery. We are truly blessed to have such an AWESOME family. Many friends from church were also very supportive!

Don is still at ADP, managing software development. He celebrated his 6th year at ADP on July 1st. There has been a lot of senior management transition at ADP, that has had a negative impact on his projects, but he still holds firm and is trying to provide the leadership that the organization needs to remain motivated and productive. He also remains diligent to provide support to his family as a father and husband. Don is also the Shepherd Leader for the 35-44 year old married homeroom at church. He remains very busy, trying to balance all of the demands from home, work and church. Don was invited by his future brother in law to attend a dove hunt on opening weekend this year at Labbe Ranch in south Texas. He fired a lot of rounds and hit very little... but as always, he really enjoyed himself!

As with prior years, Connie was pregnant most of 2002. With Aidan's complications in the prior year, she was quite anxious about the outcome of this delivery. Ainsley joined us on December 18th, and the delivery and discharge was like clockwork! Connie and Ainsley were back at home in time for Christmas. Connie amazes us all with her ability to multitask and manage the affairs of the home. She is always able to squeeze time in to do even the most minor activities with the kids (nothing is minor to Connie). She has the gift of endurance, patience and teaching. Connie has worked hard to make our new house the home that the Lord wants it to be! A couple of days ago, Connie took a fall and broke her ankle. In her normal, non-intrusive way, she hesitated to call for help until the pain was so grueling that she had to go to the doctor. She

will be in a cast for the next 6 weeks, and as always, many family members and friends have stepped up to support us and help us out!

Stacey turned 27 in October and is working and going to school. She lives off of Heights Blvd. and works in the Spring Branch area. She also attends school at HCC Downtown and is taking the last 10 hours necessary for her Associate's Degree in Art. She is then planning to transfer to the University of Houston to work on her Bachelor's degree. She continues to play guitar and has also taken up sewing as a new interest. Ainsley received a special baby blanket and Nicole made a purse on her last visit to Stacey's house. Stacey is also working on a patchwork quilt and it is beautiful. Stacey has become quite an independent and self-driven woman and we are very proud of her!

Nicole turned 15 in April, finished her freshman year at Fort Bend Baptist Academy and is currently in the middle of her sophomore year. Nicole had a very busy year. She played on the JV basketball squad at the beginning of the year. School continues to be very challenging, but Nicole takes it all in stride. She also took her PSATs this year. She has a lucrative babysitting business on the side and picked up guitar this year also. She also attended youth camp in Destin, Florida. She had her braces removed (she has such a beautiful smile!) and attended homecoming this year with a very handsome young man. She is usually joined at the hip to her best friend, Jody. One of the biggest highlights this year was getting her driving permit. We can't believe we have a child old enough to drive! Nicole is an awesome big sister and loves her siblings very much. It is amazing to watch the Lord work in her life as she matures both physically and spiritually. We are often amazed by her ability to make good decisions and maintain a loving relationship with her parents. We love her very much!

Adam turned 7 in July and is in 1st grade at Fort Bend Baptist Academy. He loves Mrs. Garrett, who is a very kind and patient teacher. The only way to really appreciate how much he loves school is to watch how excited he is about doing homework! He will usually bypass any snacks or playtime to get to his homework. He absorbs everything like a dry sponge to water. He is very intelligent and creative. Adam made a profession of faith this year and has accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. It is amazing how clearly the principles of faith and salvation can be comprehended by a 7 year old. He attended a New Christians class at church that was taught by Mark and Gayle Daniel and Mark baptized Adam on November 10th. Many in our family and our special friends from Tyler came down to share in this blessed event. As he has been doing since a wee tot, Adam continues to excel at basketball. He will probably move into an organized sport in this coming year. He has such a loving heart and is an awesome big brother!

Aaron turned 4 this year. He is a very sensitive and loving brother and son. Connie has been working with him on his phonics, reading and writing. He has mixed emotions about starting school next year, but he should do fine. He loves spending time with Mommy and will probably find the transition a little difficult. Aaron is very active and loves to play outside. He will play just about any sport, play on the swing set or ride his bike in the cul de sac. He is usually very concerned about making sure that everyone is "OK" and will frequently console siblings that may be having a tough day. Aaron loves to go to church on Sunday mornings to play with his buddy, Stetson. If something comes up, and we are unable to go, he is very vocal about how disappointed he is.

Abbey turned 3 on December 3rd. Her Aunt Mary characterizes her best as a "diva"! She did a good job getting through the terrible 2's and made a lot of strides in the areas that are meaningful at that age (potty habits, manners, sharing, etc.). She loves to be the little sister and tries to keep up with her older brothers as best she can. She will get out and play basketball with Adam and will tag along with Aaron on her tricycle. She loves her Mommy and Daddy very much, but is definitely a Daddy's girl. Don can barely walk through the door before she leaps for him to get a hug from her Daddy! She also loves to play with "Aidan boy" and typically refers to herself as "Abbey girl". She really enjoys nighttime and getting ready for bed. She loves to dress herself for bed in her pajamas (pronounced ja-ma-mas) and is very attached to her blanket.

Aidan turned 1 on September 18th. It has been a year of milestones as we have watched our baby boy come out of the ICU, not knowing what to expect, grow to a bright and happy little boy who started walking this year. He hit all of his milestones and has been discharged by his cardiologist, neurologist and physical therapist. The next big effort will be to monitor and work on his speech to make sure that it develops appropriately. He is truly our miracle child and

constantly reminds us how blessed we are. He loves to be held and has a very special attachment to his big sister, Nicole. I don't know what we will do when she leaves for college! Aidan loves to play with his blocks and other toys, but his most favorite pastime is hitting the power switch on the front of Daddy's computer and rebooting it!

Ainsley was born on December 18th. She was 8 pounds and 20 inches long. She is loved and adored by all of her siblings. She does exactly what is expected of her: eat, sleep and cry! Her delivery brings an end to the years of pregnancies and deliveries that we have been characterized by for so long. The Lord has blessed us with 6 beautiful children and Ainsley rounds us out at 3 boys and 3 girls. We are so excited about moving into this new phase in our lives!

Well, that recaps (if you can call it that) our year. It has been very busy, but definitely blessed. As we try to remain faithful that the Lord will take care of us, and coming through the holiday season with so many blessings, we would like to share a verse that has meant so much to our family:

"And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve.... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:10

Whom will you choose to serve today?

In Christ's name,

Don and Connie McGee
Nicole, Adam, Aaron, Abbey, Aidan and Ainsley