

The Browns 2006

As usual, we are late on our update. We're always about a month behind schedule! But we're trying to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, simplifying means we have to clean up all the complications we've created over the years... and that takes some time! Here's our plan:

Step 1 - Buy a "done" house that has space for everyone to have their own room, their own bathroom, and, most importantly, a place to park the bus

One step forward - The depressed real estate market gave us the opportunity to affordably expand.

Two steps back - We had to finish the remodel on the old house and pray that selling in a depressed real estate market would be successful.

Leap forward - God found us a buyer that was willing to pay full price for the house. We close on 1/22/07!!

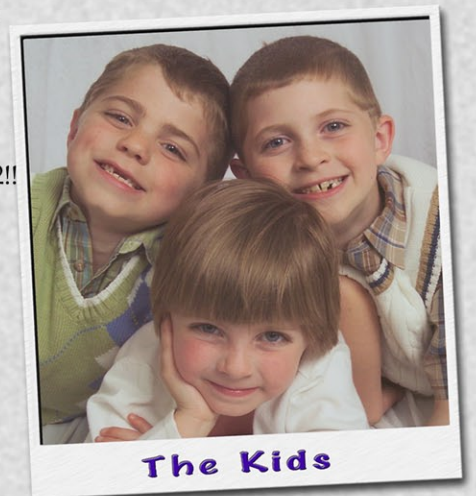


Step 2 - Replace the bus that Dar couldn't drive with one she could drive... but doesn't

One step forward - The bus is 16 years newer with upgraded mechanicals. 1978 instead of 1962!! We're groovin' now!

One step backward - The bus needs a slight remodel since we lost our bunkbeds for the kids.

Leap forward - We have not been stranded in the middle of a fuel island requiring truckers to pull us out, so far anyway...



Step 3 - Segregate duties

One step forward - Dar was sent back to work full-time as the CFO of the Credit Union she's worked with for 14 years!

One step backward - Brian agreed to abandon his career and finish the remodel on the old house, sell the old house, maintain the rent house, maintain the new house, and maintain the bus.

Leap backward - Do all this while homeschooling all the children.



Step 4 - See America from the road

One step forward - We got to tour Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, Texas, Colorado in 2006!

Two steps backward - Without Brian, Darlene took all the kids (plus a friend) to Iowa in her tiny car. Without Darlene, Brian took all the kids to Texas in his big bus.

Leap backward - The starter broke and stranded Brian and the kids at Brian's parents' house while Brian tried to fix the problem... and was almost crushed by his beloved behemoth.

Step 5 - Continue to simplify in 2007

Leap forward - Send two of the children back to school!

Leap forward - Sell the rent house.

Leap forward - Organize the new house!

Leap backward - Dar turns 40.

Leap backward - She expects big parties in all the states where family and close friends live.

Leap backward - Brian wants to step up the travel schedule and become a filmmaker.

If you're keeping score, that's a total of one step backward... if we accomplish all of our 2007 goals! You may think that's not worth it, but we're backwards people... so we're really ahead!!

Have a great year and come see us some time at the new place:

1738 Judson Dr, Longmont, CO 80501

303.678.0588

