

May 13-15, 2009



Pop! Pop!

the next field, plus chickens running around! When we got out of the car, we were greeted by Farmer Marcy. We went over to the back porch of this big house and chatted for a while. I sat with Mama and Farmer Marcy and then got up enough courage to check out the kittens under an apple press on the porch. We were joined by Farmer Dale and Farmer Nigel. Mama and Papa chatted more and I got impatient. I asked Mama to run after me around their yard. Then I went exploring. I found a little table just my size, with some chickens around it. I chased them away. I climbed on the climbing thingy, but Papa came to spot me. I did some time on the swing, that was fun. Then Papa said he was going to go in the car. I wanted to go too, but when I learned that he was actually *leaving* in the car and not just going to get something out of it, I decided to stay with Mama. He returned a bit later with PIZZA!!! We adjourned to the big room in the livery stable and spread out the pizza. I had two whole pieces, which were sliced much bigger than the ones I'm used to. I tried the sweet potato fries, but decided I didn't like them. Then it was up to our room for a bath and bed time. I managed to get out of having to actually go to sleep until both Mama and Papa were done taking showers and actually in bed. But then I slept pretty well.

I got up at about 7:00 the next morning, without calling for anyone. But I guess they heard me get up. We played in the big bed for a while, but then Papa had to take a shower and I had to get dressed. Then we all headed up to the livery stable. Farmers Marcy, Nigel, and Dale were already there with breakfast! Mama got me some eggs and a pancake, but I didn't want to eat by myself. Eventually Mama helped me eat (though I *did* feed myself at least one fork-full without her seeing!). While we were eating, it got dark and rained pretty hard. But by the time we were done, it was just cloudy and not raining. Then I helped Farmer Dale with morning chores. I helped pump water. I helped carry baby bottles to the barn. But I did *NOT* want to help feed the baby sheep and goats! I didn't even like being in the same vicinity. Mama helped feed them and I wasn't too happy about that, either. I declined to help with the adult goats too. I liked watching the parade of chickens when Farmer Dale opened the chicken house, but declined to go inside to help collect eggs. But then I had to

Wow! What a trip! Wednesday morning started out what appeared to be more-or-less normal, but Mama and Papa were a little more occupied than usual. Mama was putting things in bags and Papa was making trips out to the car. No matter, I played on. I watched some Pooh, then I ran over a few more sheets of bubble paper. Then we had lunch. When I asked Mama if I had to go to bed after, she said ... "No." (!!!) While I was reeling from that shock, Miss Sherrie came over! I had great fun showing her all my toys, especially anything with wheels on it that I can ride. Then she came with Mama and I out to the car and helped get me buckled in. That was a little weird, but who am I to ask questions? Then Mama and Papa got in the car and Miss Sherrie waved good-bye and we were off. Since we were headed in the direction of the hospital, I asked if I was getting "piki"? Mama said no. Over and over, in response to my repeated queries. After a while, we stopped at a Sheetz where Mama got coffee and I got a French Vanilla creamer. Mmmmm!! Back in the car, I fell asleep. I awoke to green rolling hills and a twisty-turny road. Then we pulled onto a gravel drive that went past some ... goats ?? There were sheep in



I'm not so sure about these cat things.



Vini Papa! Please souple!

check on the cats, and chased some chickens for a bit before we headed for the livery stable. There, I played with some of the farm toys and started watching "Babe." Mama got out lunch and then we went back to our room for a family quiet time. Mama took a nap. Papa settled into a rocking chair to read. I bounced between my bed and Mama's bed, then I read some books, then finally settled into Mama's bed to also take a nap. When we all got up, we wandered back down to check on the kittens and then into the farm house. Mama and Papa chatted grown-up stuff with the farmers while I played on the stairs. Then we got into the car to pick up some supper: CHICKEN! I still like it even though I've seen (and chased) real, live chickens around the farm yard. I had two broaster chicken legs and even a broasted potato wedge. Mama and Papa can't remember what broasting entails even though they asked the waitress at the restaurant last year. We ate outside and I had to fend off and keep a close eye on Henrietta the cat the whole time. Then Mama let me feed her some left-over scraps. Then another family arrived and wanted to share the cat. That was ok, since we were heading back to our room for my bath. After my bath, I got into bed, but had a time-out when I kept getting out of bed. When Mama and Papa settled in for the night, I then got another time-out since I was playing and not going to sleep. *That* time I finally got into bed for good and slept well.

Again, I got up at about 7:00 without calling for anyone, but Papa *still* saw me anyway! After Papa took a shower, he and I headed up to the livery while Mama got some things together in the room. We played with one of the farm toys and looked at one of the books. Then Mama arrived and we had breakfast. But before we ate, Farmers Dale, Marcy, and Nigel brought out an anniversary pancake with a candle in it! They let me blow it out, but I was too shy to try. Then they sang Happy Anniversary to Mama and Papa. After all the frivolities, I allowed Mama to help me eat again. No rain today, it was clear, calm, and warm. Very nice (though the grass was very wet). Then we (Mama, Papa, me, and the other family) all assembled outside for the chores. Farmer Dale did more talking today than yesterday. I thought it was dragging a bit, but then we headed for the pump. I said I wanted to help, but

wouldn't let Papa set me down. I let the other two girls do the pumping today. I let them do the bottle feeding too. However, today Farmer Dale let the baby sheep and goats into the part of the barn where Papa was holding me. I didn't like that. I *really* didn't like it when they came up to us looking for more food. But finally we went back outside. I suffered through watching the others feed the adult goats from the relative safety of Papa's arms. We went over to collect eggs and *then* I wanted to get down to chase the chickens. That was fun. Then I found a pile of stones that was fun to play on with the other girls. By then Papa had the car pretty much loaded, but we had to go to the farm house to pay for some eggs, and then to the livery to get them. Of course, I had to check on the kittens as we went past. After one more trip to the bathroom, we all got in the car and were off. We said good-bye to Farmers Dale and Marcy and headed home. I slept most of the way. Back at home, Mama got out some lunch for us and then I was to go for my quiet time. But when Papa got the mail, there were *TWO* packages for me! One had part of a puzzle and the other had some sewing thingies. I wanted to take the sewing with me for my quiet time. At first, I sang a lot, and loudly. Mostly happy birthday, and mostly to my baby. Then I got quiet. Papa came in to get me when I was sitting on my bed looking through a coloring book. I was whisked to the car and we went to a doctor, but not for me. It was for Papa. He's getting over a cold and is coughing and his ears feel funny. On the way home, we stopped at a cool store with lots of stuff for birds. I had to check out all the bird houses and bird feeders. Then we went grocery shopping. But I refused to sit in the cart. I guess this was unacceptable since we immediately went back to the car. Mama and Papa had a little talk with me, and then we went into another

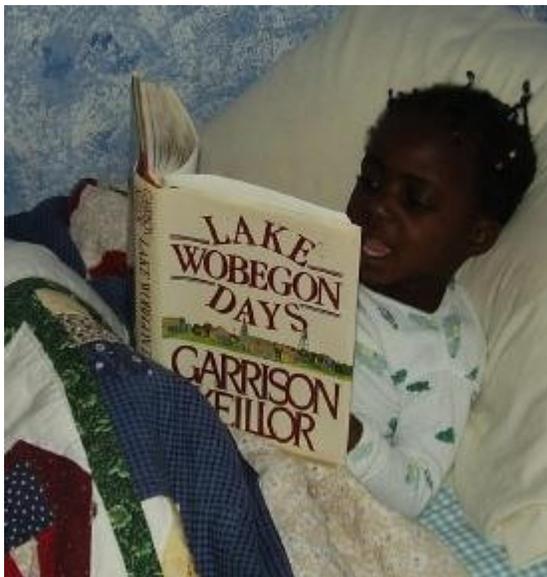


Look, a table just for me!

grocery store. This time I was a little more cooperative. I saw a train running along the ceiling. That was cool, so cool that I didn't want to leave! Then I got a little antsy in the cart at the checkout line, so Papa and I had a little special time together out at the car while we waited for Mama to complete the purchases. Back at home, Mama cooked up some supper (more chicken, and CORN!!!). I had already had some oranges and a slice of yummy Italian bread with butter before supper was finished, so I didn't eat quite as much tonight. Then I turned down some cookies. That brought us to bath time. Again I spent much of the time chasing down "fuzzies" in the water. After getting slathered in lotion and my PJ's, I asked to pray. Then Papa prayed. Then I used the toilet. Then I picked a book and climbed into bed. Mama showed me how to read it while actually lying down! A little while later, Papa poked his head in to check on me and I was still lying there reading my book. But I asked to use the pottie. However, after several minutes I hadn't even made it through the bathroom door, so he put me back into bed. I didn't enjoy that much, but hey, I hadn't done what I said I needed to, so I couldn't really argue, could I? (Well, I *did*, but got nothing from it.) So I picked up the book again. After a while I dropped the book onto the floor and fell asleep. Whew, it is nice to be home, but I can't wait for our next adventure!



Me and Farmer Marcy.



Some light bed-time reading.



Look, Papa! No feet!



Maybe these kittens are ok...



Me, Mama, Farmer Marcy, and Charlotte.



Farmer Dale and I pump water.



Here, kitty kitty!



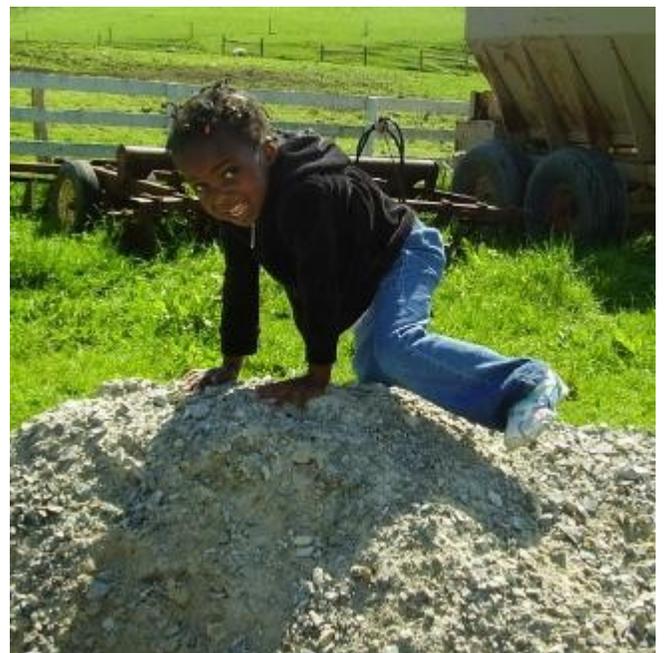
Best seat in the house.



Out to mow the back 40...



Finally, best buds. Henrietta you missed a piece.



King of the hill!



Hello? Chickens? Anyone in there?