

Odyssey 2004: The Moss Family

Journal - Week Two

Day 8 – We got a free tour at Hoover Dam because they were working on the elevators that take you down to the generators. Hoover Dam was fascinating and definitely worth the stop. Then on to the Excalibur in Las Vegas.

Day 9 - The heat is on! 102 degrees at noon! Since we don't gamble, we enjoyed lots of time in the pool. This was a great change of pace that was just what we needed after Week 1. The hotels are magnificent, unbelievably big and themed to every detail.

Day 10 – The day started with a drive through Death Valley, CA. What a desolate, scorched desert. 115 degrees F! By afternoon, we were visiting with Nathan at Ironwood Christian Camp near Barstow, CA. After supporting summer mission teams who've gone there from Hampton Park, it was great to see the camp and to see Nathan so excited about counseling and serving the Lord there this summer.

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing;... they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.”
Isaiah 35:1-2

Day 11 – California Adventure and Disneyland-a nice homecoming after being here for spring break 2 years ago. The crowds were light and temperatures in the 70's, so we were able to see and do everything we wanted. Our favorites: California Screamin', Soaring Over California, Mulholland Madness, The Matterhorn, and all the 3-D shows. We spent the full day between the parks and ended up with the Disney Parade of Stars and fireworks.

Trip Trivia: A 5.6 earthquake centered off the coast near San Diego hit around 3:00pm today. Reportedly, it could be felt to Los Angeles; some amusement parks even closed. We were riding the Matterhorn in Disneyland at that time so we were already feeling shock waves!

Day 12 – The kids were in the Pacific Ocean this morning early! The beautiful, but cold Pacific Ocean – water temperatures are in the 50's at this time of year! We spent most of the day in Yosemite National Park. This was a beautiful park with a unique blend of rocky cliffs, forests and awesome waterfalls. We decided that someday we could spend an entire vacation here. We arrived in San Francisco by early evening and stopped to visit the Carruthers who have just assumed the pastorate at Manor Baptist Church. They are so excited about the ministry God has given them in San Francisco! We really enjoyed our brief time with them and hope we were an encouragement to them. Interesting Fact: Their parsonage is about 1600 square feet and was recently valued at \$475,000! Though it was very nice, it wasn't quite what we would think of for a half-million dollar house!

Day 13 – A full day in San Francisco . . . We took the CalTrain to downtown. It was the first time any of us had ever ridden on the top level of a double decker subway-like train. From downtown, we took a cable-car/bus through Chinatown to Fisherman’s Wharf and Pier 39. What a great place! Right on the Bay, this area is filled with neat little specialty shops and of course, plenty of seafood restaurants. There’s also an area where sea lions swim and lounge all over the docks. We loved listening to them sing and argue as they claimed territory! We even had lunch at the “Sea Lion Café” so we could watch them as we ate! We also toured Alcatraz, taking a boat out to the island. What a fascinating place and such interesting stories are still being told about this penitentiary that has now been turned into a national park. As we waited for the cable car ride, we were entertained by the street people: the SilverMan (a mime artist totally covered in silver from head to toe); the Birdwoman (a woman in a wheelchair who attracted pigeons to a point where she was totally covered); and the EscapeMan (a guy in a straightjacket and chains who amazingly freed himself). With temperatures in the 70’s, this was a beautiful day!

Trip Trivia: We took a real cable car up and down (way up and down!) Hyde Street. We passed Lombard Street known as “the crookedest street in the world” because of its sharp turns on a 40-degree slope. The turns were built back in the 1920’s to force traffic to descend the steep incline at a safe speed.

Day 14 – A driving day to the Redwoods National Forest, CA. In Jedediah State Park, we saw the biggest trees we’ve ever seen! When our family linked hands, we couldn’t even get halfway around one! The kids couldn’t resist one more opportunity to get into the Pacific Ocean, but it was much colder than the previous water in southern California.

Trip Trivia: We pulled into a gas station in Cave Junction, Oregon only to discover it was a full service station- you know, the kind where they still pump the gas for you! Later we found out that it’s Oregon state law that attendants do the pumping.

Trip Trivia: Week Two

- **Highest Gas Price: \$2.96 per gallon at the edge of Yosemite National Park, CA**
- **Total Number of Pictures Greg took this week: 1035**
- **Hottest Spot so far: Barstow, CA – 115 degrees F**
- **Most Fun: Disneyland and California Adventure**
- **Strangest road name: Zzyzx Road in Baker, CA**
- **The low point of week 2: Badwater, CA – We stood at the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere: 282 feet below sea level!**
- **State we bought the most gas: California (Wouldn’t you know, California also had the highest price gas of any state in the nation!)**
- **Miles Traveled this week: 1,793**