

# SAVED BY THE BELT



**Existing conditions.** The weather was definitely a factor as roads were icy and packed with snow.

**“As I was about to buckle my own seatbelt, I had a feeling something wasn’t right.”**

*My 16-month-old son, Dawson, and I were going to a doctor’s appointment in Salina. I had already put him in his car seat and buckled him in. But, as I was about to buckle my own seatbelt, I had a feeling something wasn’t right; so, I turned around to make sure his seat was buckled in properly and it wasn’t. Apparently, my husband, had forgotten to re-buckle the seat when he transferred it from his pick-up to my vehicle. So, I buckled it in, then fastened my own safety belt and we began down a dirt road covered with ice and snow.*

*Once we got a few miles away from home, my tires hit a patch of ice and I lost control of the truck. Even*

*though I was only going about 30 mph, the truck spun; then rolled until a post came through the windshield, hit the dash and stopped us from rolling even more. I hit my head on the driver’s side door and was knocked unconscious.*

*When I woke up, I could hear Dawson crying. I turned around and found him hanging upside down still strapped in his car seat. Everything happened so fast. I don’t even remember taking off my seatbelt to get him out. I wrapped him in a blanket, rolled down the window and started yelling for help since my cell phone didn’t work.*

*Luckily, about that time my father-in-law, Junior Kratzer, drove down the road to our rescue. He took Dawson to his truck to warm him up; then called my husband, Darin, and the police. I believe God told me to check Dawson’s car seat before we took off that day. I’m sure if we both hadn’t been buckled in, we may have been very seriously injured.*

**Jessica and Dawson Kratzer, Kanopolis, KS**



**After the fact.** Dawson and Jessica walked away from this accident without injuries, but their Chevy Silverado has seen better days.