

Season's Greetings!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope this holiday season finds things well in your life. Not a lot has changed in the two years since we included a letter with our Christmas card. In some ways life is very normal, as we work, study, and play. Of course, normal is relative. For instance, normal means change when talking about the kids, who seem to be nearly grown! Joshua is almost twelve now and is in the sixth grade. Julia is a ten year old fourth grader. Both have their own special personalities and talents. Julia loves making intricate origami figures and an endless variety of handicrafts. She is rapidly becoming an accomplished classical pianist and is playing on a basketball team. Joshua has been studying classical guitar and now plays three and four note pieces. He is really excited about playing trombone in the band this year. He is also an avid roller blader and likes to go biking with Kevin. Both kids enjoy reading (Julia likes animal books - we are currently reading *The Old Man and the Sea* by Hemingway - while Joshua likes science fiction - he most recently read *The Worthing Saga* by Orson Scott Card), music (Julia loves country music while Joshua goes for Led Zeppelin), and the computer (Julia just "beat" *Myst*; Joshua likes *Doom*, any flight simulator, and any *SimCity* game). All and all, we are continually amazed by our kids, even if we do have to listen to them bicker and make them pick up their rooms every now and then!

Also a member of the "changes" department, two years after completing a history degree, Tamra has returned to school to get a B.S. in Social Work. She decided to do this after becoming a hospice volunteer. This brings her full circle since she started out at ISU as a social work major. In her spare time Tamra has become a very proficient yoga practitioner and participates in a women's spirituality class. Kevin still works at Idaho State University where he is now a tenured associate professor. He stays busy with research, teaching, and consulting and is looking forward to travelling to a conference in Seoul next summer as an invited panelist and speaker. Kevin still plays guitar and enjoys mountain biking in the hills around Pocatello.

One of the highlights of the past year was our summer travels. While Joshua and Julia visited grandparents and attended a "cousin's camp" in Louisiana and Arkansas, their parents flew around the world (literally). Starting in New Orleans, we first went to Athens, Greece for a week (Kevin had a conference). We then spent a week travelling with friends in Southern India and a week touring Northern India. India was incredible, especially the experience of being the first foreigners to visit our friends' home village. After adding a week of driving from Idaho to Louisiana and Arkansas and back, and another week hosting Kevin's brothers, including a trip to Moab for some premium mountain biking, you could say we were ready for summer vacation to be over so we could get some rest! We have resolved to spend next summer camping and backpacking a little closer to home.

As we look back on the past and forward to the future, our thoughts rest on our friends. Although we don't know each one's situation, we sincerely offer you and the ones you love our best wishes for much peace and happiness in your lives.

Merry Christmas -- Kevin, Tamra, Joshua, and Julia.