

December 2000

Merry Christmas to you and your family. We hope this greeting finds you well and content. It has now been two and a half years since we left Idaho and it is fair to say that we have become comfortable and accepting of our new hometown and state, though unlike the ancestors of the locals, we probably won't ever say, "This is the place!" We did buy a new home in February with a beautiful view of the valley that Tammy really likes. Kevin especially likes the fact that the yard is smaller and all the electric outlets have three holes - our first home that did not require repairs and remodeling!

On the day-to-day front, like most people's, our lives involve family and work. Joshua is now a high school sophomore. He seems to tolerate school, but like his Dad before him, he dislikes, and sometimes disdains, school spirit and many of the activities that take up most teenagers' time. Joshua spends most of his time online playing an interactive game called *Asheron's Call*, talking on the phone, listening to music and occasionally doing homework, usually all at the same time! The move to Logan has been especially hard on him. He does not like it here and says he is looking forward to the day he can move to somewhere that is a little more stimulating. He is a very independent thinker, who enjoys reading Kafka and listening to late 70's punk rock and who likes to sport a Ché Guevara T-shirt. Joshua and Kevin took an all-male-Moore backpacking trip this past summer with Kevin's dad and two brothers. They spent seven nights on a 40-mile hike in the Colorado Rockies at an average elevation of over ten thousand feet. It was a great trip and many memories were made that will not be forgotten.

Julia is an eighth grader in middle school. Within walking distance of our new house she has a group of about five close friends, many of whom find their way to our hot tub a couple times a week. Julia still studies piano and hopes to make the Math Counts team this year. She competed last year as an alternate. She spends most of her free time with her friends, her cat Soxy, drawing Celtic knots, listening to music by a group called *Steeleye Span* and reading. She enjoys fantasy literature, especially when the plot involves a dragon or two. This interest made her summer trip to Europe with Kevin really exciting. They spent a week in Denmark, where they visited a number of palaces, and a week in Poland where they stayed in a real castle that even had a dungeon. She is eager to go to Europe again.

As for the "adults" of the family, beyond trying to keep our wits together with teenagers in the house, while keeping food in the pantry, clean clothes in the closets, the grass mowed and walks shoveled, toilets cleaned, and floors vacuumed, we round out our days by going to work. Tammy just got a new job as a case manager at the Area Agency on Aging. They administer various programs for the elderly. After spending nearly two years as a social worker in a nursing home, she needed a change. Although there were many rewarding aspects in her job at the nursing home, the position was extremely stressful. Her new job allows her to get a broader perspective on the issues faced by the elderly. She also continues to volunteer for hospice, providing respite and facilitating bereavement groups.

Kevin is still on the faculty at Utah State, where he directs a forty-person research center that focuses on robotics and vehicle automation. In addition to research administration, he teaches two graduate-level control theory classes each year and is an active researcher. Last year he received the College of Engineering Researcher of the Year award, traveled to Europe four times to give invited lectures. He will be in Singapore and Sydney in December presenting papers and teaching a workshop.

We have not seen many of you in a long time. However, we often think of those we have known in the different stages of our lives. We would love to know what is happening in your life and where you are in your journey. If you find your way near Logan, feel free to look us up. Our new address is 1038 E. 100 S. Logan, UT 84321 and our phone number is 435-787-8531.

Best wishes for a happy holiday, Kevin, Tammy, Joshua, and Julia

During this Christmas season we are reminded of the words of Jesus found in the Bible: "The kingdom of God does not come if you watch for it. Nor will anyone be able to say, 'It is here' or 'It is there.' For the kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:20-21