

Christmas 1993

Dear Friends and Family,

Joe This year I'm especially blessed. A couple weeks before Thanksgiving I was fixing a roof in our back yard with Becky's fiance' Dave and I fell head first off the roof. I had a concussion and lost my memory for about 3 hours, but nothing broken. (We don't know the day or the hour...) Judy and I are into learning ballroom dancing. We are going to our local community center and have a great instructor. We have videos and audio tapes to help us learn, we just need to practice a bit more. This was a year of our kids transitioning. Two masters degrees and a bachelors degree. Also our 3 oldest have jobs and our youngest is enjoying college. We are truly blessed. This past year was the best ever as I got in 9 days of cross country skiing (1 week in Oregon with all our kids except Amy) and a back packing trip in Yosemite with Amy, Joey and my cousin Bud. I took out about 250 dead apricot trees from our orchard and put in a better water system and am finally pruning some of the remaining trees. Hope to get some apricots this year. Also I'm planting live and cork oaks and redwoods as I take out the apricots. Sure is beautiful in the country. I'm having fun working at Hewlett-Packard. Lots of interesting projects and the company is doing well in this challenging time. Sacred Heart Community Service has outgrown it's facility and we are looking to buy. The spirit of love and caring is so powerful and beautiful. I'm still teaching Confirmation in our parish. We have a fun loving, very spiritual youth director and it's beautiful.

Judy With our four children away from home you may be thinking we have an empty nests, but we don't. Jimmy 25 and Steve 19 are our roomers. So we still have lots of discussions around the dinner table and games in the evenings. It is fun having young people around. My photography business continues to do well. I do a lot of weddings, families and babies and I love all the people contact.

Becky and Dave Greetings from Oregon. After spending the last 2 years 1000 miles apart, we are now living 1000 yards apart in the city of Roseburg. After lengthy and covert diamond shopping operation Dave stuttered the words "B-B-Becky w-w-will y-y-you m-m-marry m-m-m-me?" on July 10th. Blushing, Becky answered an emphatic "Yes". In the mean time, Becky was able to finish her thesis and graduate from San Diego with a Master's degree in history. She is now substitute teaching in the Roseburg area and working toward an Oregon teaching credential. Dave continues to work as a forester with the State of Oregon. Continued and increasing environmental awareness has kept Dave busy. Both are working on plans for a summer wedding and look forward to that event with great expectation.

Mary This past year has been very eventful and extremely rewarding. To begin with, I finished my Masters Degree in Education with an emphasis in Counselor Education this

past summer and also finished my thesis! It was quite an undertaking. I researched effective self-esteem and motivational programs for "at-risk" elementary students. I then developed a handbook of successful programs for educational use. Three weeks after I graduated, I accepted a 4th grade teaching position at Saratoga Elementary School. I have 24 wonderful students and I absolutely love teaching! With Todd and I both working, it's a challenge to find time to exercise, socialize and still keep our place in order. Todd is now helping with the cooking, cleaning, shopping and laundry, so we're well on our way.

Todd I wouldn't call heating dinner in a microwave cooking! But I am doing my best. I even learned what thyme is (it's a spice!) This year has been very eventful for me as well. Getting married was the big event of the year for me. On the work front, I'm still working at Acuson. This past June, Acuson had it first ever reduction in force (that means layoffs to us laymen). As a result, my job responsibilities have increased. I am involved in several purchasing functions and I am currently leading a team to analyze a new manufacturing procurement process. In the Fall of 1944, I am hoping to attend graduate school to get my MBA. On the social front, Mary and I have joined a young married couples Bible Study. In fact, I am even co-leading this endeavor. Through this study, we hope to develop solid friendships with other couples from our church.

Amy I can't believe another year has gone by. I have experienced a lot of change and growth over this past year. After diligently working at the art of being a student for so many years, the time finally came for me to move on. So in June of this year I graduated from Cal Poly. It was wonderful having so many friends and family together for the occasion. We had dinner in the countryside at the Poso Saloon, and my Grandmas and Grandpa were amazed that such unpopulated places exist in California. After graduation, Mike and I and friends went on our annual backpacking trip in the Sierras. It was neat this year because Joey, Dad and Bud Travers were able to join us. A couple of weeks after the trip, Mike and I drove out to Boise, Idaho where I started my job at Hewlett-Packard. I'm working as an Engineering Specialist for Accessories for LaserJet printers. This has been a bit of a transition for me, especially since the only time I had ever been to Idaho was for the interview in May. I really like how Boise is a very family and nature based community. I'm slowly meeting more people and even joined a women's city league soccer team. I'm very fortunate that part of my job entails going to San Jose to check out their production line. I get to stay at home and see my family, and then Mike drives up from San Luis Obispo (where he is completing his last year at school). I guess that long distance relationships must run in our family! After working for about a month, I took a small vacation. Mike and I and our friend Paul drove up to Canada and we went on a cruise to Alaska. It was beautiful!! Have a Blessed Christmas

Joey Hi everyone! Well it is my second year at Sonoma State and I am enjoying it more and more. This semester I am broadening my scope on life by deciding to join the Sonoma State Choir. We are singing Handel's Messiah, I am really enjoying it. Other activities besides studying have been playing intramural soccer and leading a Bible study with the Christian club on campus. Most of my focus scholastically this semester has been on accounting. I am majoring in Business and so far this has been my most challenging course. This summer I spent approximately ten days at home. For over a month I was in the Sierra Nevada's camping and working. I went on an annual camping trip with five of my best friends from high school at Mammoth Pools. In the beginning of the summer I went on a seven day backpacking trip in Yosemite. The rest of the summer I spent working for Paul Weber, a friend of Amy's and now a good friend of mine. I did a whole range of projects from pulling weeds to pouring cement in 105 degree heat! For three of the weeks I was up at his cabin in the Sierras and I would work during the day and fly fish at night. Not a bad life. I hope your holiday season is full of joy and happiness. God Bless.

Merry Christmas and Hapy New Year,

Joe, Judy, Becky, Dave, Mary, Todd, Amy and Joey

