

December 22, 1996

Dear Friends,

As we reflect back on 1996, we realize how truly blessed we are. We have our faith, each other (for 31 years), our health and our extended family. Our family is growing as Amy will wed Mike Edmondson in May and Joey will wed Belinda Mulroy in the summer. We are becoming foster parents of Nick Vitols, who is our daughter Mary's nephew. Our Cousin Bud's daughter, Nikki Travers is living with us while she attends De Anza College.

**Joe**

Judy and I celebrated our 30th anniversary (one year late) by spending 2 weeks in Belize (the former British Honduras) and Guatemala. Belize has the 2nd longest barrier reef in the world, after the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. My high light of the trip was four days on a very small island (only a couple hundred feet wide) called South Water Caye. Judy loved it because she could see the sun rise and set from our cabin. I loved it because the reef went right by the island and we snorkeled 3 or 4 times a day. There were hundreds of different beautiful fish, awesome coral and warm water. Close to Heaven. We then went to see the Mayan ruins in Guatemala. We saw the largest Mayan complex of ruins and the tallest temple (212 feet and I climbed it) at Ticol. The Mayans had a very complex civilization with 3 calendars. This has been the year of houses. In March I started a major renovation of our Cupertino rental with plans to sell it. We were surprised and pleased when our daughter Mary and Todd decided to buy it in August. By then it was transformed from a dump to a beautiful house and Mary has ideas for improvements. We had gifted the rental to our 4 children so our other 3 children are busy buying rentals with their share of the gain. I absolutely love a fixup project. The downside was we had a good apricot crop on our Hollister orchard and I was too busy remodeling to pick any and so we gave them all away. I'm very excited and challenged at Sacred Heart Community Service. I'm still board president and we are getting closer to building our new building. We have raised over \$3.2 million with major grants from the City of San Jose and the Packard Foundation. Habitat for Humanity is collaborating with us on the project and we are selling 5 residential lots for some cash and construction help on the project. We get a new 20,000 square foot building and Habitat will get 5 very low income houses. I'm still having lots of fun at Hewlett Packard primarily working on company wide internal business systems. Perhaps I'll work until the millennium (I'll be 60 then). Judy and I were sponsors for RCIA at our parish and we very much enjoyed the community. We are very saddened by our new pastor's very serious illness from lung cancer. I am planning to actively participate in our parish Renew.

**Judy**

My photography business continues to be fun. I'm particularly pleased with some of the baby pictures I did this Christmas. We had a great time in Minnesota in August celebrating my parents 60th wedding anniversary. Many of the Brandls and Hiemenzes were there. My parents still live in the house I grew up in. After the celebration we spent lovely relaxing time at my brother John's cabin in Wisconsin with my siblings and their families. What a grand time.

**Becky and Dave Lorenz**

They moved into a brand new two story house about six weeks ago in Roseburg, Oregon. The house is on River Front Drive and they can see the Umpqua River from their upstairs bedroom. About 2 weeks ago when the Umpqua was flooding, they could see the river from their kitchen. Dave travels all over the state working as a forest

practioner. Becky teaches 7th grade and got a school teaching award. We visited them at Thanksgiving and helped celebrate their new house and helped them search for a rental house. We are starting to drop subtle hints about the "g" word...grandchildren.

### **Mary and Todd Vinson**

Todd graduated with an MBA from Chapel Hill, North Carolina in the Spring and started work at Hewlett Packard in July (at the same site where Joe works). Mary is teaching 5th grade in the same district that she taught in before North Carolina. She finds teaching much easier here and she has a lot of parent support. Last night Mary and Todd had an open house. Their house is fixed up very nice with hardwood floors and white interiors. It is a very welcoming house and they are only a couple blocks from us and Todd's parents.

### **Amy Tembrock and Mike Edmondson**

Amy will become Amy Edmondson on May 25th at our parish church, St. Joseph's of Cupertino. We are very excited and pleased. All the wedding party will be going to the snow between Christmas and New Year's. This will give the wedding party an opportunity to know each other and to have some fun in the snow. Amy works at Hewlett Packard in Boise and this year traveled to Europe and Singapore. Amy and Mike just arrived from Boise and had to spend the night in Reno as Interstate 80 was closed all night. Amy bought a rental with Judy's help in locating it in November. Mike is renting from Amy until they get married. Just think, Mike's fiancè is his landlord.

### **Joey Tembrock and Belinda Mulroy**

Last Wednesday Joey asked Belinda to be his wife and we are thrilled with his choice. Joey carefully planned the engagement and they enjoy telling all the stories. Joey has even documented this in a journal for posterity. Joey and Belinda plan to wed in the end of July or August. Joey is in the final stages of buying a condo and hopes to close by the end of the year. Judy and I spent a day in November helping him evaluate properties in Rohnert Park where he goes to school. Also Joey got his first deer (300 yards he claims) and he bought a used Ford Ranger truck. Quite a year for that young lad. Joey plans to graduate in May with a major in city planning and a business minor. After 12 years we won't have anyone in school.

### **Nick Vitols**

We have a new adventure in Nick, age 14. He came into our house to keep us from becoming old fogeys. We like having him here. We now know about Face to Face, independent skateboard trucks and KOME radio station. A communications expert could not beat Nick in cryptic speech. One total phone call he initiated went like this: "Hey" "Howcome?" " Um." "K." Sounds about right for a 14 year old boy doesn't it?

We wish you a New Year full of joy.

Joe and Judy Tembrock