



Karin, Annika, Christopher, Patrick, Ross
Esther, Laura, Aizec, Helen

Dear Family and Friends,

December 2008

As 2008 comes to a close, we again put fingertips to keyboard to slowly and clumsily record events of significance. – at least to us – and perhaps to insomniacs. The picture above says a lot. The two grown-ups show unmistakable signs of what in our youth we used to call aging, and of which we no longer speak. And the rest of the figures in the picture confirm the impression that God keeps making younger people all the time! We feel very blessed.

Jeff and Rachel were thrilled by the birth of Esther on August 12. She joins with Laura (5), Helen (3) and Rachel (age undisclosed) to comprise, in Laura's words, "a very girly family – even our dog is a girl." Jeff built a playhouse – painted pink – in the back yard. He still works as a lead software engineer at the same company, now Thomson Reuters (www.thomsonreuters.com), working on the Checkpoint® tax research website. Rachel is homeschooling Laura who also takes ballet. Helen, who warms hearts everywhere by smiling and throwing kisses, gets physical and speech therapy. Both big girls take swimming lessons. Esther eats, sleeps and studies the kingdom she hopes to rule as queen.

Susan and Eric (Anderson) still live in St. Louis Park. He works for Quicksilver and does some engineering consulting work. Susan works in food service and does house cleaning. They work on their Quixtar business and you can access their website at www.Hensman-Intl.ltdteam.com (password is "nutrition".)

Jason and Tami have a busy household. Jason does commercial roofs for Ettl and Franz (www.ettelfranz.com) and residential roofs in his spare time. Tami home-schools the 3 boys and does some commercial photography. Christopher (12) has become quite a tennis player and does magic, card throwing and Origami. Patrick (9) is a talented archer and loves math. Aizec (7) has won several Judo awards and is working on his green belt. Annika (almost 3) tries to keep up with all of them.

KaWan earned a Master of Art Education and is a full time substitute teacher, willing to take all grades and all subjects, for the Minneapolis Public Schools. This fall, she went to the Middle East with 34 people to help Palestinian refugees and to intercede for the territories. She continues to use the visual arts and photography as a bridge into the international community right here in the Twin Cities.

Ross has completed 3 years of retirement and although intermittently tempted to try a comeback, is probably too busy to ever work again. He is still on the board of Twin Cities Creation Science Association and runs their web site (www.tccsa.tc). He has been elected chairman of the Outpost Ministries board and runs that website (www.outpostministries.org). He was elected Chair of the Outreach Commission (missions committee) at First Free – and leaves the website to Jeff. Ross also continues to teach the 4th-6th grade Children's Church at First Free (www.firstfreechurch.org/ministries/childrens_church). He is referred to by the kids as "my favorite fossil" or "the youngest old person I know."

Karin has completed 3 years of having a retired husband and keeps herself busy with Bible Study Fellowship (www.bsfindernational.org) as a discussion group leader. She also serves as a "Mentor Mom" for Mothers of Preschoolers (www.mops.org) and teaches Kindergarten Sunday School at First Free Church. She continues a tradition of taking her grandchildren to Bible Study Fellowship when they are 3 through 5 years old and having them stay the night before. So far the next few years are pretty heavily scheduled.

We regularly enjoy the company of Dad Olson who turned 90 and Mom Falck who is 85. Our guest room has welcomed Richard Broadberry from England, Bruce and Mary Damon from Macao, Ian Taylor from Canada, Sunny Zhang and her mother Stella from China and a friend Shana Schrock from the exotic land of Iowa. We took a short February trip to San Diego for sun and a fall visit to Bob's Cabins on Lake Superior for peace, quiet, beautiful leaves plus lots of reading.

In an uncertain world, only one thing is sure – a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, Who came as a baby, became a Savior and will return (perhaps very soon) as King. Do you know Him? Do you know how much He loves you? Do you hear His call? It breaks His heart if you do not respond. May this Christmas truly bring you closer to Him.

Karin and Ross Olson