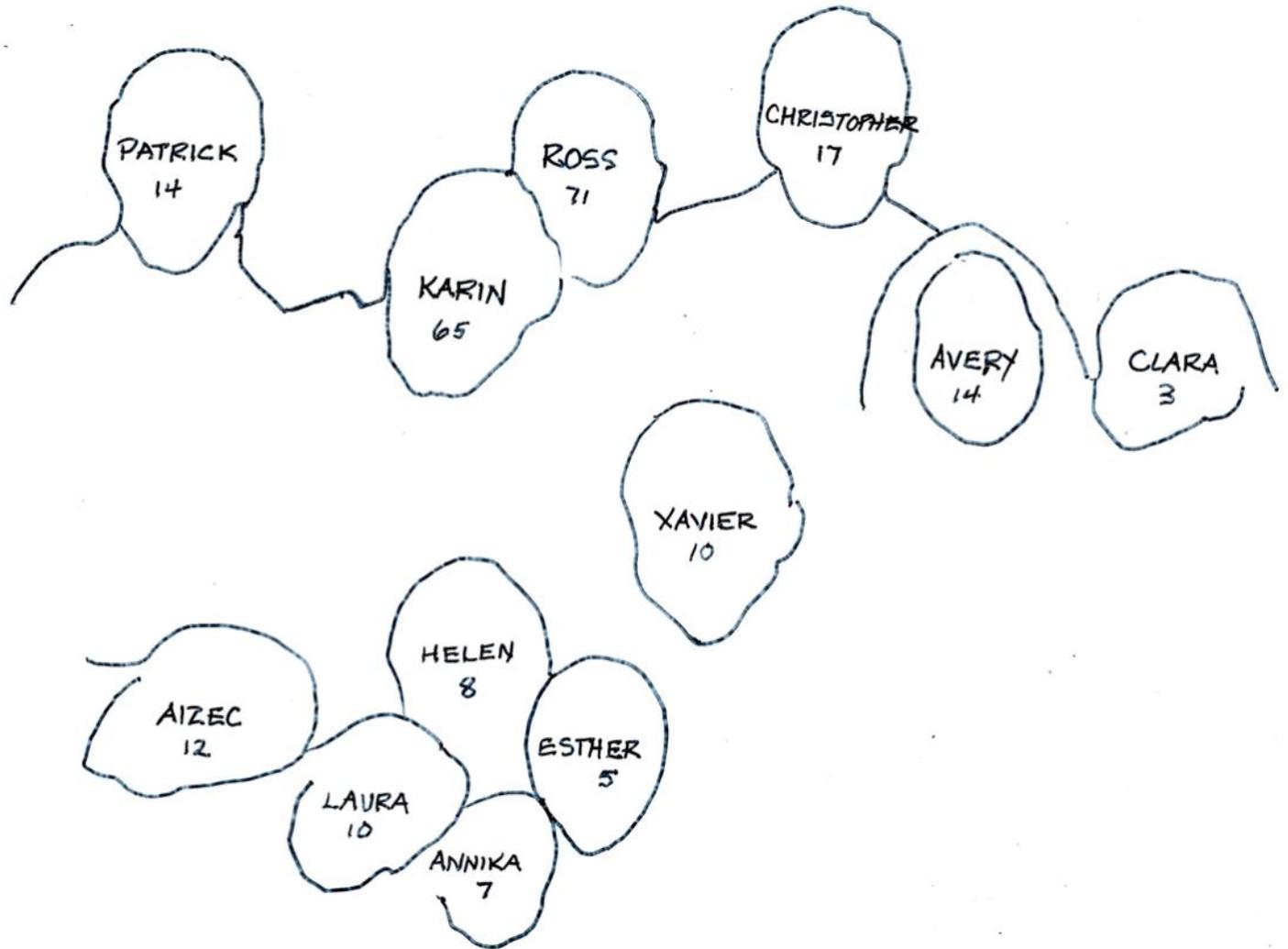




Merry Christmas

Ross & Karin Olson
and Grandchildren

2013



Dear Family and Friends,

A year ago, **Karin** was still fighting a wound infection after a below-knee amputation of her right leg in October of 2012. She walked the first time January 9 and now she is on her second “permanent” prosthetic leg – not her last leg – as the stump shrinks and matures. She had scar revision surgery in April and is off to the races. She is amazing, driving to all her volunteer activities and actively downsizing as we prepare for a move to a senior co-op when a “Washington” unit is available at Gracery Lakeshore in Richfield. She sold craft at their Christmas Bazaar and we have gotten to know a lot of our future neighbors by participating in the monthly concerts and occasional lectures. We are officially members, having bought a one bedroom apartment which puts us at the top of the waiting list. We use it now just for storage as we de-clutter our house for eventual showing and will sell when we actually move. Karin spends every Monday afternoon interviewing clients at the Community Emergency Services food shelf. She is grateful to God for the blessing of praying with people who come with such a variety of needs. She is a Bible Study Fellowship discussion leader and takes the (at this time) last two grandchildren to the children’s program this year, **Esther** and **Clara**. Karin teaches Kindergarten Sunday School and loves the open, teachable, affectionate nature of that age group. She is a proud grandma and a Mentor Mom at Mothers of Preschoolers. We also continue relationships with many of the Chinese we have hosted. A highlight of the year was the baptism of **LiJuan** who told how Karin’s peaceful response to the amputation and its complications convinced her that God can even take bad things and make something good of them. In August a new friend from China, TianQi (Anna) spent a week with us and is now a part of the family. Karin and Susan stripped the ancient wallpaper from the kitchen walls, took down the obsolete “Country Look” shelves and hired painters.



Ross continues his over-scheduled life (but takes more naps, often when reading.) He is still chair of the board of Outpost Ministries www.outpostministries.org which has seen a great spiritual harvest as young people troubled by unwanted same sex attractions find the real meaning of life in intimately knowing and devotedly following Jesus. All this in spite of the downward spiral of our culture and the falling away of many churches and even the umbrella organization, Exodus, which first lost its focus and purpose and finally dissolved altogether to be replaced by Restored Hope Network. Ross still manages the website for Twin Cities Creation Science Association www.tccsa.tc and MCs their monthly meetings, when not only are politically incorrect scientific evidences for Biblical Creation expounded, but each meeting begins with an ethnically insensitive Ole and Lena story! Ross still serves on the Outreach and Community Outreach ministries at First Free Church and teaches Junior Church – 4th, 5th and 6th graders.



He still leads twice a year hikes, but with a large group of adult and teen helpers who do the herding plus rescuing and stand ready to carry Ross out if necessary. KaWan predicted a few years ago that Ross would be leading via a motorized wheelchair by 2020. Ross’ own website www.rossolson.org still posts his mostly unpublished op-ed pieces, although a few do pass the censors. His drama page with multiple monologues continues to be accessed and used. Ross does grandpa outings every Wednesday. We rented a cabin on Little Elk Lake for a week in July and Ross went with Jeff and some of the grandkids to the Boundary Waters for a “tenderfoot” canoe trip – and not for the kids’ sake!

Kawan and **Brian** (look up “Snowman the Soulman”) Powers have a busy life. Brian teaches recording technology full time at Minneapolis Media Institute and leads worship at Living Word Christian Center in Brooklyn Park. He does occasional concerts. KaWan teaches in a program of the Minneapolis Public Schools and instructs children’s ballet at a Minneapolis park. They have Brian’s children **Avery**, 14, and **Xavier**, 10, half of the week. Avery is a very mature young lady who teaches Sunday School and plays basketball. Xavier is a football player and loves board games, especially with his Dad. They both are CRAZY for their NOT wicked stepmother! (KaWan, of course!)

Jason has been busy with his commercial roofing job as well as side jobs with residential roofs. He has had a difficult year, however, still dealing with emotional issues surrounding his divorce from Tami. He has initiated a search for his birthmother and has a new girlfriend this year but has pulled away from extended family and even his kids, even though we all still love him and want to make it as easy as possible for him to be with us all.

Tami remarried two years ago to **Chris Molitor** and they and the kids lived in Skandia until the rented house became unavailable and they moved a little further north to Wyoming (Minnesota, that is!) **Christopher**, 17, is an international celebrity holding the world record for the 2x2 Rubik's cube of 1.7 seconds! He also went on a mission trip with the youth group and shows real spiritual growth. **Patrick**, 14, is a competent and dependable helper who has been of great assistance to our youth pastor and our children's leaders. He is serious about his spiritual life. For example, when he was a sixth grader, he memorized the Sermon on the Mount. **Aizec**, 12, is a prolific inventor, master of all he tries. Including judo, origami, card throwing, bull whip and yo yo. He has also begun, with the Lord's help, to direct his energy and strong emotions. **Annika**, nearly 8, is a young lady with intelligence and sensitivity dealing with many confusing situations but coming out stronger. In the new house, she finally has her own "girly" room.

Susan and **Eric** Anderson moved to a 10 acre wooded home south of Somerset, Wisconsin. Eric has a good job with MetroSpec Technology www.flexrad.com, a fast-growing manufacturer of LED lighting. Susan does house cleaning for relatives and they still have their Amway business and hope eventually to have a Christian retreat center on their property.

Jeff and **Rachel** have very full lives. Jeff was promoted within Thomson Reuters to Software Architect for the Thomson Reuters Social Platform www.thomsonreuters.com. He serves as a Stockade Ranger for the boys' club at church and he is also church technology consultant. Rachel home-schools the 4 girls and plays an active part in Christian Health Cooperative, a group of families who research and find sources for healthy foods. She is also the drop site for a natural and organic food distributor. **Laura**, 10, loves reading, piano and drama. She was chosen (with cousin Aizec) to be a walk-on at a Chanhassen Dinner Theater performance of "Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat. **Helen**, 8, just got glasses. She is thrilled to be in Girls Rock! Club at church with her cousin Annika and may burst out in song almost any place and without notice. **Esther**, 5, loves drawing, puzzles, singing and organizing things. **Clara**, 3, has begun to carve out her own niche in the family including art, music and humor. Grandma Karin is wistfully realizing that she has no more grand babies" now...

So another year has gone by and we are still here and the world is still here, although both are getting shaky and seem fragile. How wonderful to know that our security is not in human inventions or political schemes but in the One Who came at Christmas, died on Good Friday and arose on Easter to make it possible for all who accept Him to enter into eternal fellowship with Him, starting with a tantalizing foretaste that begins right now. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a joy filled New Year!

Ross & Karin Olson
5512 14th Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55417

Hopefully in 2014
Gramercy Lakeshore Apt ??
6711 Lake Shore Drive
Richfield MN 55423

