

MERRY MILLENNIUM!

We decided to make this year's Christmas letter a millennium letter instead. Since we all appear to have survived Y2K, here it is.

Snow was good in the Rockies last winter and we spent a number of weekends on the slopes skiing. Milo and I learned to love skiing partly because of the beautiful mountain scenery but now the only scenery we get to see is the backs of our kids as we try to keep up with them going down the slopes! Jenn experiments with snowboarding and short skis and spends lots of time on her knees and backside.

In May, we were flooded with "senior things" as Jenn graduated from high school. Her graduating class of 500 plus parents and friends made it very different from the classes of 30 and 40 students that we graduated with thirty-five years ago. Instead of a graduation party Jenn chose to go on a trip to New York City. We stayed in downtown Manhattan and did all the tourists things - the Statue of Liberty (a long way to the top), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Picasso anyone), the New York Stock Exchange (I hope they all know what they are doing!), Madison Square Garden and the New York Ranger's locker room (Jenn is an avid Ranger hockey fan) and the United Nation's building (a real education). We really enjoyed the two Broadway musicals we saw (Peter Pan with Cathy Rigby and Cats). The most fun, however, was probably sitting on the corner watching all the people go by and eating bagels for breakfast from our favorite sidewalk vendor. It was a real eye opener to be in the big city and we were all glad to be back in Colorado.

During the summer, Sandy's parents stayed with us to escape the heat of Arizona. Even though our basement-refinishing project wasn't quite complete, it was livable. We hope this year to get the kitchen down stairs finished and to get window coverings and then it should be complete. While they were here they were able to watch some of the girls' swim meets and some of Sandy's horse shows. They were a big help keeping an eye on Laura all summer because Jenn worked as a lifeguard and swim instructor. In the middle of the summer Milo decided to leave Baer Consulting and start working for Orion Auto, an auto insurance firm in Denver. Orion gives him a chance to work for a small company where he can see projects through to completion like designing web sites on the mainframe computer. The office is much closer to home and has given him the chance to spend those hours at home rather than commuting.

In August, we moved Jenn to the University of Colorado at Boulder where she started her freshman year. She is interested in something in the sciences but is also taking "courses" in dorm living and dorm food. We were delighted she decided to go to school in Colorado as it allows us to have her home on some weekends and meet some of the kids on her dorm floor. We have all had to adjust to having her gone from home but Milo is probably most distressed that he has to cheer for C.U. (Iowa State rival).

This fall Milo and Laura took a long weekend and flew to Iowa to a mini-family reunion with all of his sisters and a number of the Willis cousins. Laura particularly enjoyed the trip and a chance to visit the farm. She brought back some gourds and a sample of broomcorn to add a flavor of Iowa to home.

My folks spent Christmas with us and we celebrated the New Year in our favorite place - our living room - with each other. We rejoice that the Lord has given us life and health and each other and a chance to be part of the new millennium and we wish all of you the best in 2000.

Love,
Milo, Sandy, Jenn and Laura

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