

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6*

## **1997: THE FLYNN'S' YEAR IN REVIEW**

Howdy Y'all!!! As you can tell, we've settled quite nicely into Texas culture! We hope this year's Christmas newsletter gives you an idea of what we've been up to during our second year here in the Lone Star State...

January began with a typical Waco winter—a few infrequent ice storms, bringing with them a light powdering of snow that melted by midday. These ice storms only occur 2-3 days during the month, so it's not practical (or economical) to invest in snow tires or year-round radials (something that Chantal grew up with in Michigan). So on those days when you have to be out on the icy roads, you feel (as Chantal likes to say) like a de-clawed cat. It was also Carl's first "real" winter, as he had never experienced ice or snow before. In fact, he got so excited with the first light snowfall that he called Chantal at work, standing in our backyard on the cordless phone exclaiming, "It's snowing! It's snowing!"

In the middle of March came the bluebonnets (the Texas state flower). They were glorious, covering many open fields and stretches along the highways. We also hosted our First Annual (?) St. Patrick's Day party (we're "O'Flynn's", what can we say?!). We served baked potatoes—an Irish staple—and our guests brought their favorite toppings. In May, we made a quick weekend trip to California; Carl was a groomsman in a Pepperdine friend's wedding.

Carl spent the month of July teaching at Pepperdine University, our alma mater. He taught "Religion and Culture" (Religion 301 to you alums), one of the three required undergraduate religion courses. Chantal flew out for a long weekend halfway through, and got to see friends, Carl's family, and her former co-workers at SmileSaver Dental Plan. Carl enjoyed his teaching experience and received very favorable reviews. He was offered the opportunity to teach the course again next summer, which he accepted. So come next July, Chantal will once again be an academic widow.

Chantal began her second year of employment at the law firm of Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee in August, as the assistant librarian/research assistant and assistant receptionist. She believes she works for the best firm in Waco & with the best people. In September, Chantal's mama came out to visit for a week. Each time she comes she sees a little bit more of our "hometown".

This fall Carl began his second year of Ph.D. work at Baylor University . (It's kicking his butt!). At the end of this fall semester, he will be halfway through with his coursework. His projected graduation date (dissertation and all) is either May, August, or December 2000—depending on when exactly his dissertation is completed. Currently he's taking 3 graduate courses (2 in philosophy—his minor—and 1 in theology), is graduate assisting in the computer support department on campus, and serving as president of Baylor's Graduate Theological Fellowship—the organization for graduate students in religion. In addition, Carl is working for one of our church elders—doing computer maintenance and data entry for the business that he runs out of his home—and teaching a Wednesday night class at church. So you could say that Carl is keeping himself busy as usual!

Our big trip of the year was in November. Carl co-presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL), which was held this year in San Francisco. (The AAR/SBL is the professional organization for professors of religion, and about 7500 attended this year's meeting). Chantal accompanied him as his "spouse/partner." Since the conference is held the weekend before Thanksgiving, and this year was in California, we decided to incorporate spending Thanksgiving with the Flynn family into our travel plans. Chantal's mama also came out and spent the holiday with us. During our trip, we were able to see Carl's cousins Stan & David (who asked to be mentioned by name!), numerous friends, and Carl's mom and stepdad. We also spent one night in Carmel, and stayed at the same bed & breakfast and in the same room where we honeymooned.

On December 12 we celebrate our 5th wedding anniversary! Yippee!! (Carl has one final that day, and another one first thing the next morning—very romantic). We look forward to being home in Waco for Christmas. Chantal's mama is coming to visit, and will spend two weeks with us.

We continue to love our church, Crestview Church of Christ. Our Sunday morning young couples class and Sunday night small group have each grown considerably; we are blessed by our involvement with them. We also love Waco. Chantal is deliriously happy, and says that she could live here until the day she dies!

We look forward to 1998 and wish you God's blessings in the coming year. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Love,

Carl & Chantal Flynn  
9205 Woodgate Circle West  
Waco, TX 76712  
(254) 420-1060

We each have e-mail:  
Carl\_Flynn@baylor.edu  
Chantal@namanhowell.com



*In our San Francisco hotel room (Nov. 1997).*