

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And  
he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
-Isaiah 9:6

### **Blessings to you as 1999 draws to a close!**

As we sat down to write this year's Christmas newsletter, we soon realized how much there was to tell. So instead of a strict chronological narration, we've decided to break the past year down into various categories that complete the statement:

1999 was a year of...

**Unexpected Blessing:** Our biggest news (and transition) of the year is that Carl has a job! A real job! Just like other grown-ups have!...For the past two years, Carl has worked as a graduate student assistant at Baylor University with Student Technology Services (Student Computing). This past spring, the department created a full-time position and asked Carl to apply. After discussion, contemplation and prayer on our part, Carl applied, interviewed and was offered the position. His official title is "microcomputer specialist." His "working title" is assistant coordinator of ResNet. Basically, he will continue to do some of the same things that he has been doing the past two years, just on a full-time basis. His responsibilities are divided between serving as co-support coordinator for the campus residential computer network and technical support in the on-campus computer labs. This blessing has also changed our financial situation, and we are trying to be good stewards of our new, extra income. We are trying to live off of Carl's paycheck and to put Chantal's paycheck in savings. Carl intends to finish the Ph.D. in Religion at Baylor, but will do it at a necessarily slower pace. He plans to take his qualifying examinations in July and then move on to the dissertation.

Another blessing came our way in October. We have a new-to-us vehicle! Carl's mom and step-dad drove out from California to visit us for the first time here (more on that later) and gave us their 1992 Jeep Cherokee. So we now have two cars again (and two insurance payments), but we continue to carpool since we're still going in the same direction at the same time and enjoy the quality time together.

**Ongoing Work:** Once again, Carl spent the month of July teaching REL 301 (Religion & Culture) at Pepperdine. This was the third summer for him to teach the course and he had his largest class yet. Carl had the pleasure of staying with our friends Steve and Stacy Rouse (formerly of Waco) and their baby Dominic for the entire month. Carl had the best time and enjoyed spending quality time with the Rouses, and especially playing with Dominic.

August marked Chantal's third year of employment with the law firm of Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee as the assistant librarian and assistant receptionist. The firm continues to take good care of her and she continues to enjoy her work and her co-workers.

**Loss:** In January, we began a series of weekend visits with our dear friends Dan and Judy Anders in Tyler, Texas. Dan was the preaching minister at Malibu Church of Christ while we were at Pepperdine. After almost ten years of fighting non-Hodgkins lymphoma, Dan was suffering from the late-term effects of the disease. His condition was worsening and we wanted to see Dan and Judy as often as possible in these last days. Dan passed away in February. His memorial service and funeral brought together

people from across the country to mourn Dan's passing and to celebrate his life. We had the opportunity to visit with a number of these friends, and in this sense the memorial service was a strange mixture of grief and joy.

In July, Carl's Grandma Flynn (who lives in Sun City, Arizona) suffered a major heart attack. At first there was hope that the doctors could find a medical solution to prolong her life, but it soon became evident that the damage to her heart would not allow her to live much longer. She was moved into a hospice facility and we decided that we needed to go see her immediately. We arrived in plenty of time to say our good-byes to Grandma. After a couple of days in the hospice, she passed away.

About two months later, Grandma Flynn's only brother, Stanley Deller (known as Uncle Herc) also passed away. Carl was asked to officiate at a memorial service honoring both his grandmother and great uncle. In October, to coincide with Grandma Flynn's birthday, both sides of the family gathered in Phoenix for the occasion. Chantal's Mama also came. It was good for the whole family to be together. The Dellers and the Flynns had not been together like this in about 20 years. Chantal enjoyed meeting Carl's cousins for the first time and we enjoyed seeing cousins Stan and David again, who asked to be mentioned by name!

**Celebrations:** We hosted our annual St. Patrick's Day party and again participated in a Passover Seder. In June, Carl successfully pulled off a surprise party for Chantal's birthday. We had a "Welcome Home Carl" party to mark his return from teaching at Pepperdine in July. In October, we hosted a Halloween party. We celebrated our 7<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 12 with a wonderful weekend getaway to a bed and breakfast in the quaint town of Wimberley, Texas (not far from Austin).

**Visitors:** Chantal's Mama came to visit over Memorial Day weekend. We spent a day with her walking around the town of Salado (about 40 miles south of Waco). Carl's mom and step-dad, Chuck, drove out to visit us for the first time in October. We enjoyed eating out together and spending a day at the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo. In December, Chantal's best friend from high school, Frank Edwards, came to Waco for a day. We toured a few of Waco's historic homes that were decorated for Christmas.

**Travels:** While Carl was teaching at Pepperdine, Chantal came out to visit for a week. During her stay, Judy Chism (a Pepperdine friend who lives in northern California) came down to visit with us and we had a great time together. We also visited with Carl's family.

In November, we flew to Boston for the annual meeting of the AAR/SBL (American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature). We spent a day with Dylan and Tiffany Krieg (former Waco friends; Dylan is now working on his Ph.D. in Massachusetts) touring historic Boston via the "Freedom Trail." Carl enjoyed the conference and came away encouraged by visits from old friends, making new acquaintances, and discussions regarding his hopes for the future.

We will spend the Christmas and New Year's holidays in California with Chantal's Mama and Carl's family. We will also attend the long-anticipated "Millennium Celebration" at Pepperdine on January 2, 2000. We look forward to seeing some of you there!

**Church:** We continue to enjoy our involvement with Crestview Church of Christ. Our former Sunday night group fizzled and we are part of a new one. Carl taught a Wednesday night class in the spring (early church history) and again this fall (Augustine's Confessions). Chantal attended the congregation's first women's retreat in October. She was glad to meet new friends, put some faces with names and to deepen already existing friendships.

**Friends' Transitions:** Some of our closest friends here in Waco experienced changes of their own this year that in turn affected us. Since May, three have received their Ph.Ds, providing proof and encouragement that it can be done. In addition, three moved away and three had their first child. We miss those who have moved away and have enjoyed seeing those we waited nine months to meet!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's continued blessings in the New Year!

Love,  
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