

“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

2000: THE FLYNN'S YEAR IN REVIEW

Greetings to you from our little corner of paradise in Waco, Texas and blessings as 2000 draws to a close! Welcome once again to our annual Christmas newsletter. We hope it will give you an idea of what we've been up to this past year.

Upon surviving the millennium (the lights didn't even flicker!), our new year started off pretty quietly, as it often does. In January we hosted a Super Bowl party. Carl finally finished his Ph.D. coursework in February when he turned in the paper for his final class. All that remained were the written comprehensive exams and the dissertation (more on that later...). This spring, Carl also found time to participate on intramural basketball and volleyball teams with co-workers.

Things didn't really speed up until March: we attended the annual Southwest Regional Conference (affiliated with the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL)) in Dallas. Carl created the conference website. At the conference, Carl helped to facilitate the book sale while Chantal assisted at the registration booth. We also went to our first Weird Al Yankovich concert during March--perhaps the best concert we have ever attended. On the 17th we hosted our annual St. Patrick's Day party, complete with baked potatoes. Later in the month, Chantal attended a women's retreat with Columbus Avenue Baptist Church at the invitation of friends. She had to "rough it" at the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas. Finally, we attended a fabulous Oscar Night party at the home of Richard Gerik, the assistant director of Carl's department (we made Oscar ballots and brought red velvet cake to symbolize the red carpet arrivals of the stars!).

In the middle of April, we traveled to Tyler, Texas to attend the wedding of our friend Lara Anders (her father, Dan, preached at Malibu Church of Christ during our time at Pepperdine). On April 18, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the day we met. We sent each other roses and Chantal sentimentally dressed up for the occasion. This date also happened to coincide with Carl's Student Worker Appreciation Party at the Baylor bowling alley, and we'd like to point out that Chantal looked mighty fine in her dress, pearls, and tri-colored bowling shoes! On Easter Sunday, we drove to the quaint town of Salado to meet our Austin friends Wade, Julie and Ellie Osburn for lunch (Julie's dad, Larry Owen, performed our wedding ceremony).

In May, Chantal's law firm lost one of its two surviving namesakes, J. Rodney Lee, following his battle with cancer. The firm closed so that everyone could attend his memorial service. Over Memorial Day weekend, Chantal's Mama came out to visit and we spent a day in Austin together.

We celebrated our 30th birthdays in June (Chantal's on the 8th; Carl's on the 13th) with a long-weekend trip to San Antonio. We stayed at a wonderful bed & breakfast located just a few minutes from the Riverwalk and spent four days touring the city in spite of the torrential rain/monsoon-like weather. Carl's Dad and stepmom, Deb, came to visit over Father's Day weekend. We took them to the Dr. Pepper Museum and enjoyed showing them around Waco. At the end of the month, Carl attended a four-day Resnet conference in Philadelphia.

This summer Chantal fulfilled a philanthropic dream. She joined the Central Texas Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Waco is hosting its first Race for the Cure next April and Chantal is working with the Race's Survivor Recognition Committee. In addition, she served as Chair of this year's Lee National Denim Day (the largest single-day breast cancer fundraiser for research and outreach programs) for the Affiliate, sending out information to local schools and businesses. Chantal is very emotional about this cause and thrilled to be actively involved in the fight against breast cancer. Carl didn't teach at Pepperdine this July as he was busy preparing for his written comprehensive exams (or "prelims", as they're officially called) during the last week of July and the first week of August--two days each week, 5 hours a day. One must pass these exams in order to continue in the Ph.D. program and receive permission to write the dissertation. So, while Carl prepared to write, Chantal tried to calm her nerves by engaging in several therapeutic bubble baths and rounds of solitaire. In mid-August,

we were informed that Carl had passed! There was much rejoicing...and tears!! Carl is now "ABD" ("all but dissertation") and officially a Ph.D. candidate. Currently, he's researching for the dissertation proposal, which he hopes to turn in to the religion faculty when they meet together in February.

August also marked work-related anniversaries for both of us. Chantal completed four years with the law firm of Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee as the assistant librarian and assistant receptionist. Carl completed his first year of full-time employment with Baylor's Information Technology Center in Student Technology Services. He helps to provide technical support for the campus' residential computer network (Resnet) and also works with the campus computer labs.

We traveled to Abilene over Labor Day weekend for the wedding of our Pepperdine friend, David Lemley. We stayed with friends Kyle, Camille and Colin Dickson, and also spent time with Gay Barton--all formerly of Waco. There were about two dozen former Pepperdiners in town for the wedding and we also enjoyed catching up with them.

This fall, we were proud season ticket holders to Baylor football. We faithfully attended every home game (no matter how painful--Baylor finished dead last in the Big 12 Conference), and a new, surprising side of Chantal's personality emerged--the loyal Baylor football fan!

October was full of activity. Carl attended the 20th anniversary celebration for Let's Start Talking, a summer missions program in which we both participated. Chantal's Mama came out again to join her on the 2nd annual Ladies Retreat with Crestview Church of Christ. In mid-October we traveled to California to meet our new little niece, Carlene ("Carly") Sue Flynn. She was born on Sept. 3 to Carl's brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Cathie. We saw our families and also spent two days around Pepperdine. At the end of the month, we attended the Texas A&M/Kansas State game with our friends, A&M alums Matt & Jennifer Terhune. We also represented Pepperdine again this year at the Heart o' Texas College Fair.

In November we traveled to Nashville for the annual AAR/SBL meeting. The conference was especially meaningful as it marked the publication of The Quest for Christian Unity, Peace and Purity in Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address, a book of essays that emerged out of an Internet seminar that Carl participated in. In addition to seeing many conference attendees, we spent quality time with several dear friends: Bob and Sally Phillips (Chantal lived with "Papa Bob and Mom Sally" in 1992 when she participated in a campus ministry internship in Santa Barbara) and Jim and Jenni Minewiser (Jenni is Chantal's life-long friend from Michigan. They were en route to North Carolina for Thanksgiving and made a detour through Nashville just to see us! What friends!). We enjoyed a lovely Thanksgiving meal with friends here in Waco.

This December, we paid off the first of Carl's non-deferred student loans. Praise the Lord! On December 12, we celebrated our 8th wedding anniversary. We plan to spend a quiet Christmas at home, just the two of us--along with our little furry friend, Miss Addison Sparks, who we'll be dogsitting. We'll probably enjoy a fun-filled evening with friends on New Year's Eve.

We continue to be actively involved with our church, Crestview Church of Christ. This spring, Carl created a website for the congregation that he continues to build and maintain. He also taught a Wednesday night class on medieval church history. Chantal is involved with the Ladies Ministry.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessings in 2001!

Love,

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Carl & Chantal at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee