

2001: a flynn odyssey

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare
and not for harm to give you a future with hope"
Jeremiah 29:11*

As our New Year began, Carl gave his blessing for Chantal to have "time off for good behavior." Chantal would resign from her job of the past 4 1/2 years as assistant librarian & assistant receptionist at the law firm of Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee, effective at the end of March, in order to pursue her passion of being a full-time Domestic Goddess. She would be able to go to the grocery store and do laundry on weekday mornings, attend the weekly Ladies Bible Class at church, increase her volunteer involvement with the Central Texas Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and accompany Carl to Pepperdine for the whole month of May while he taught a class during Summer Block I. Carl would continue working with the Information Technology Center at Baylor and pursuing his Ph.D. in Religion.

Then, one night in February the phone rang and changed our lives. Carl was offered a 2-year Visiting Lecturer position in the Religion Division at Pepperdine, beginning in the fall. We were both caught completely off-guard; it was an emotionally and psychologically difficult decision to have to make, especially for Chantal (she'd spent the past 5 years saying that she could live in Waco until the day she died). However, after much discussion, we both agreed that it was an opportunity that we could not afford to pass up.

Chantal went ahead with her resignation at the end of March. The firm had a surprise farewell party and a going-away lunch for her. She spent April enjoying her new full-time Domestic Goddess status, and continuing to help plan the first Central Texas Komen Race for the Cure®. In May, we roadtripped to Pepperdine together. Carl taught his class while Chantal relaxed, read, visited with friends, worked part-time in the Alumni Office and searched for a place for us to live. As part of our upcoming transition, it was obvious that Chantal would need to work outside the home again, and during our month-long stay she applied for and accepted a position as the administrative assistant for the Center for Career and Academic Advising at

Pepperdine.

After returning to Waco in early June, we began preparations for the move. We spent quality time with special friends throughout the remaining two months of our time in Waco. In July, Carl resigned from his job as Microcomputer Specialist with the Information Technology Center at Baylor. His co-workers and student assistants each threw him going-away lunch parties. Crestview Church of Christ also gave us a lovely going-away party. On July 29, about 30 of our friends helped us to load the moving truck (it only took 3 hours!), and on July 30 we began our journey westward, with much-appreciated help from Carl's dad and stepmom. We moved into our new apartment on August 1 and Chantal started her new job on August 6.

And here we are, back in California. Carl is enjoying teaching sections of Religion & Culture and New Testament survey, and is at the beginning stage of writing his dissertation. Chantal is settling into her new job—supporting about 10 staff members and supervising student assistants—and feels that she's using her gifts and strengths. We're blessed to both be working on campus; we carpool together as much as possible and have lunch together at least once a week. We're living in a 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo-esque apartment, which is about a 30-minute drive from campus. The best room in our apartment is our guest bath, which is decorated with Texas/Waco/Baylor memorabilia (its clock is even kept on Texas time!). It's truly a masterpiece. We attend Malibu Church of Christ, and the college Care Group on Wednesday nights.

We both miss the Waco community and Texas in general—we were really good honorary Texans for the past 5 years—but Chantal misses it more. Although she continues to adjust to the transition, she is trying to bloom where she's been planted. She is also finding consolation in the fact that our current long-term plan is to retire to Waco!

While the move to California consumed most of our attention this year, we also had time for some other events and activities: in January, we rejoiced in the births of Traci "Camille" Gibson (born to our dear Waco friends Brent & Katherine) and Tessa Lynn Irish Minewiser (born to our dear Michigan friends Jim & Jenni), as well as the engagement of Carl's stepbrother Eric; Carl taught a class on Reformation and Restoration history at church on Wednesday nights during the spring; we both participated in the first Central Texas Komen Race for the Cure® (held in Waco in April) and the Los Angeles County Race for the Cure® (held at the Rose Bowl in November); Chantal's Mama visited us in Waco for Easter weekend; Chantal attended Malibu Church of Christ's Women's Retreat in October; we both attended Carl's annual professional conference in Denver in November; and we've spent lots of time (Memorial Day weekend, Labor Day weekend, Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, and various dinner get-togethers) with our southern California families. In addition, we celebrated our 9th wedding anniversary on December 12 (and after everything that's happened this year, we still like each other!).

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace (*Numbers 6.24-26*)



At the Information Technology Center going-away lunch in July