

Christmas 2003

Dear Family and friends,

The curtain is rapidly closing on yet another year and it is once again time to send heartfelt greetings and blessings from our family to yours. Addressing the envelopes that carry our yearly greetings always brings to mind very special, sometimes hilarious, sometimes poignant, memories of the many times we have shared with you, our dear friends. While some of these memories are recent, far too many of them now seem to have their origins in ancient times!

Tim, Alissa and David are healthy, not wealthy (students never are) and wise (well working on it). David decided to graduate from high school a semester early and so he will be doing some classes at Purdue, looking for a part-time job and working towards his pilot's license after Christmas. His senior high school soccer season proved to be very exciting as the team made school history by winning conference, sectional and regional titles.

At the end of March I flew to Australia to attend the 50th Anniversary of Denistone-East Uniting Church and the wedding of my niece, Debbie (my brother Adrian's daughter). These were simply wonderful occasions and I am so grateful to have experienced them first hand. I also enjoyed catching up with as many friends as I could fit into a very tight schedule.

Speaking of 50th, it probably needs to be noted that one of our family members reached the half century milestone this year in April. He had a belated birthday celebration with friends from his New College days while in Sydney in August.

My dad visited during May and we worked together on seemingly endless house maintenance projects which included far too much painting. There just isn't a more congenial person to work along side of than my dad. Much of the work involved preparation for an open house brunch on June 7th to celebrate Alissa's High School Graduation. A few days later, dad, Paul, Alissa, David and I flew to England to begin a two week vacation.

We began with a leisurely canal boat excursion through the Yorkshire countryside followed by a trip further north to Hadrian's Wall and then on into Scotland...Edinburgh, Stirling (William Wallace Monument), Pitlochry, Loch Ness and then back south through Glasgow to Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, Blenheim Palace (birthplace/home of Sir Winston Churchill), Windsor Castle and finally on to London for a couple of days. Obviously we tried to do too much and, upon returning home, some of us needed several days to recover from the "vacation!"

The past several months have been quite hectic but we managed to thoroughly relax again over Thanksgiving with Aussie relatives Bruce, Kaye and Matthew Hooper at their lovely home in Carbondale, Illinois. For the boys, the highlight was watching Paul's graceful slide down a slick boat ramp into an icy lake as he nevertheless successfully retrieved David's shoe. Don't ask how David's shoe happened to be in the lake for that's indeed a weird story.

As we turn our thoughts towards the reason for the season I'd like to share these words from C.S. Lewis, who I believe, possessed one of the greatest minds of the twenty century:

"We must not be ashamed of the mythical radiance resting on our theology...as myth transcends thought, Incarnation transcends myth. The heart of Christianity is a myth which is also a fact. The old myth of the Dying God, without ceasing to be myth, comes down from the heaven of legend and imagination, to the earth of history. It happens – at a particular date, in a particular place, followed by definable historical consequences....and this is the marriage of heaven and earth: Perfect Myth and Perfect Fact: claiming not only our love and obedience, but also our wonder and delight."

May this Christmas be especially wonderful and delightful...and may the hope of knowing God...Perfect Myth made Perfect Fact...continue to fill your hearts with love and peace through the coming year.

Sue, Paul, Tim, Alissa and David Robinson

Photo Gallery at <http://www.cyto.purdue.edu/JPR>