

# 1994 Holiday Greetings from the Helgrens

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December 29, 2005

**O**k,Ok.. So I hoped that this year I wouldn't be starting this letter saying 'Its been a great year at 40,000 feet...' but...

**T**ravel has once again the main focus of my year (and the family) out doing last year's total by 30,000 miles (over 140,000 this year..) passing the million mile mark on Delta back in June and logging more time outside of Utah than in.. Not all of it business though: We DROVE to southern Utah to revel in the natural wonders of our home state, visiting Dead Horse point and Natural Bridges National Monument while the chicken pox made visits to Jonas and Sam back to back (or should I say Top to Bottom?). After spring break, my business travel started in earnest running pretty much non-stop. Stopping to 'smell the roses' included a long weekend in Washington DC as Debbie's brother tied the knot in full Air Force military style. Afterwards I dashed off for an overnight trip of nostalgia to my 20th (!) high school reunion.(I don't know what your experience has been with these things, but I marvel now at what great people there were in my HS class)..I joined up with Deb and the boys on THEIR way back to SLC the next day and we settled in just long enough to re-pack for a week in Minnesota (driving again..this time with Holly and the Scheid clan). Wow! It was a fabulous R&R retreat (though no one will believe me since I spent beau coups time 'in front of the tube' (PC that is)). I was home only moments before spending the months of September and October in West Virginia and New Jersey (second home to me now). I managed to shoehorn a business trip to Alaska in at the end of August (and the Salmon just happened to be running so...) We took a second family vacation to visit Yellowstone for a few days where I had a chance to sharpen a new found interest in fly fishing on the rivers in the park. Finally, I've found serene diversion to 'nerding' (as Jonas and Sam call my vocation)...but not the only one. Weekends have been spent with both boys playing soccer. Here's the detail of those other Helgren's:

**D**ebbie still continues to work part time (our sole source of regular income) as she enjoys Sam's final year at home. When she is not working, she's working: Volunteering at the homeless clinic here in SLC, volunteering at Redeemer Lutheran as a 'lunch lady' (hair nets anyone?). She fills in where needed and is the primary Den leader for a den of cub scouts. To fill in spare time, she has become and irreplaceable replacement for a PT with a private practice in Salt Lake (is a partnership looming?). Deb is the reminder of God's compassion and ministry to those less fortunate.

**J**onas, now in grade two, still works us to death with his constant need for a 'project' to work on. Budding computer enthusiast (for now) all around jack of all trades. Jonas finds things to fix, build, take apart, reconstruct when he is not reading, writing, arithmating or sleeping. Are all first children like this? We could only survive one!. Jonas keeps us in tune with God's call to be ACTIVE participants in God's Kingdom.

**S**am is a marvelous study of one in tune with God's creation. Was St. Francis or John Audubon like this? Sam's gift is his interest in, and understanding of, nature. Parts of southern Utah and Yellowstone (not to mention ANY interesting thing in the neighborhood) inhabit the Helgren household (fortunately, nothing that is still moving..at least that I know of). Sam keeps us focused on the wonder of God's creation. A gift beyond measure.

**I** am trying to get off the road and your prayers are needed. The primary problem with income being tied to my billable hours as a consultant is that there are only a finite number of billable hours in one's life ( and I think I have reached it). My prayer is to stop traveling without bankruptcy and there is hope on the horizon that that will be possible in 1995. Hopefully, my life reflects that trust in God will bear out to His glory (although the road is long and narrow).

**C**ompassion, industriousness, a wonder at nature and trust in God's sovereignty. A season of Joy and hope. A year of promise and adventure. These things we wish for you and yours.

Shalom