

1999 Millennial Greetings from the Helgrens

December, 1999

Helgrens!? Are they still alive? Aye, still here to tell the tale. A year of fun and frolic and - whoops, just what happened to LAST year's letter? Check it out at www.helgren.com (!)

Apparently, we became too busy as the year finished itself off. Our last minute change of plans NOT to travel for Christmas gave us a whole extra week but the letter was not to be.... we were still mailing bills with Christmas stamps in July....

Perch was the name of the game in January. We have obtained secrets as to how to ice fish for perch in an unnamed reservoir in Northern Utah. Sam is the expert at the hook, run and "launch" method. Filleting fish slightly larger than most goldfish ended up making great fish McNuggets..

Pete travels almost all the time despite promises to the contrary. February was no exception with trips to Alaska and New Jersey (the usual). Family time was spent helping out at church (we host homeless families about once a month) and watching Jonas in basketball and cross-country.

Yikes! March is in like a lion ! Jonas is 12! Seems only yesterday, a babe in arms. Lent and seder meals looking toward Easter. March is out with The Lamb.

Holy Easter starts the month and we rejoice in Spring Break. This year to Lake Powell to try our hand at fishing for Stripers. But a dead motor on a big lake in the unpredictable spring makes for some "white knuckle" experiences. Sam wants to go back. This time with an extra battery....

Only thing on the calendar is "Pete out, Pete back". Will this travel never end?! Deb keeps up the pace of car pooling, BSF leadership, work at the Sports Medicine clinic and running the household (prayer powered....). May's promise is that summer is to be soon upon us.

Lately "Camp Grandma" is the hottest thing going. In June its Sam to Camp, Jonas to 'Camp Gram' and then in July, the reverse.

I, once again, in complete denial of advancing years, backpack up the Sawtooth Range with trusty friend Lyman in July. Someday this, too, shall pass.

Driving is the theme for August. We head to "the Lake" in Minnesota and then decide that since we are so close we might as well swing through Chicago. Spending time with "Big" Gramma (Great Grandma to the rest of us) and going downtown to the Museum of Science and Industry. It's our kind of town.....

And why NOT see Mount Rushmore and Crazyhorse Mountain on the way back? We arrive back in Salt lake for one deep breath and its....

Yawn! Back to school! And an action packed schedule. Now I have the Bible Study Fellowship bug and attend with Jonas and when I am not in town I go to BSF in Manhattan (x2) and Tampa (x1). Deb still leads a Tuesday night BSF group which Sam also attends. We are thankful for His Word.

Surely the pace will slow but NO! more travel, more commitments. A trip to Pocatello for the soccer tournament with Jonas in October. Sam REALLY wants to go fishing. And then its.....

November. Mom falls and breaks her arm and comes to live with us for a while after surgery. It changes the pace and makes us thankful for family and friends as we gather at Thanksgiving. We have been very blessed, indeed.

We can be found at www.helgren.com (it will run at least until 11:59pm, 12/31/99). Our family album is there for this past year and some of Jonas' and Sam's artwork (they are the Webmasters). Let us know how you are doing (Pete@, Debbie@, Jonas@ and Sam@ helgren.com).

We hope that this Season bring you Peace and Joy and a Completeness that only can be found in our Savior.