

2007 Christmas Greetings from the Helgrens (www.helgren.com)

December 14-26, 2007

For a bit of deja vu, we once again begin this missive on the Lituya, a ferry in S.E. Alaska....

In every way, we have been in very good hands this past year. God has been so faithful and we have been so blessed. Here is the tale of the Helgrens, 2007:

Jonas graduated with an Associates Degree in Applied Science from ITT technical college this fall (as planned) and as planned, continues to work toward his bachelors with hopes of finishing in 2009. Working more than full time for Mediaport (www.mediaport.com), he is currently looking forward to the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January. Our only consolation is that he won't turn 21 until March so what goes on in Vegas WILL be staying in Vegas. Our attempts to "go green" by reducing our 11 desktops/servers and 5 laptop computers has failed. We are expecting personal Christmas cards from both Rocky Mountain Power and ATT Wireless this year (phone calls to Hong Kong and Australia are part of Jonas' job).

Sam, is looking forward to finishing his senior year in high school with no college yet selected. He has talked about sticking around and going to the University of Utah (in state tuition – Yippee!) but, hey, there are months before a decision **has** to be made! Sam had a job with Paradise Cafe for several months before "retiring" to enjoy his last year in High School. However, the realities of \$3 a gallon gas are beginning to weigh on his savings account and there might be a change of employment situation in the near future. Pete and Sam got their fishing fix in early this year by "knocking them dead" at Lake Powell in April, pulling in Striped Bass four at a time (two poles each!). They also took a late summer trip to the Kenai Peninsula, and brought home 150 pounds of halibut, Ling cod, and silver salmon.

Debbie continues to work at the Orthopaedic Clinic as a Physical Therapist, and next to Jonas has the most regular income in the house. She still enjoys her real calling, as a Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) teaching leader. Her evening womens class was closed but she took over teaching the daytime womens class. That transition has changed Debbie's work schedule for the first time in

years. When she isn't working and preparing to lead her BSF class, she is filling her spare time working on a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. These days most Physical Therapy schools turn out DPT's and so, to keep up with the young 'uns, it is back to the books!

For Pete, the "interesting" 2006 continued into 2007. He re-established the "solo" consulting business that led him away from a "real" job back in 1992. That has turned out, so far, to be better for him financially and mentally. Although relying on the needs of customers to call him for work can be challenging, he is fortunate to have some excellent customers from New Jersey to Alaska that make it possible to keep food on the table and a roof overhead. Well, actually, it is a providential God that takes care of the "living details". We just benefit from it. An interesting turn of events on the BSF front also impacted Pete this year as he is now the Teaching Leader for the BSF evening men's class. It has been a wonderful opportunity for Pete and Deb to share in God's Word in a special way. Two Teaching Leaders in the house hasn't been too much!

We took several trips to central Idaho during the year to enjoy Debbie's brother cabin near Donnally. We snowshoe'd in in February and spent a few days re-treating the cabin with new oil in August. Although we dearly miss going to the Rakow Family cabin in Minnesota, this "off the grid" cabin in Idaho has been a wonderful place to build new memories. Visits by Deb's folks to SLC have kept us all in touch.

This year, for the first time since Pete's mom passed away, the Helgren's will gather in SLC between Christmas and New Years to reminisce about the old days, ski, and make merry. It will be great to have everyone together again.

We hope that your gatherings and coming and goings, now, and in 2008, will be blessed. We remember with gratitude all that God has done for us this year and ask His blessing be with you as well during this wonderful season and throughout the year!