

*" For unto us is born a child in the city of David a Savior which is Christ our Lord"
and for this reason we rejoice and celebrate this Christmas Season*

The year 2000 is almost at its end and I remember contemplating when I was a kid, how old I would be at this juncture in my life and thinking "oh that's really old and it will take forever to get there." Well how wrong I was, for it was only yesterday when I was the kid and now I'm the mom of a 20 year old and gratefully still a 9 year old. But if I don't dwell on the age thing to much I still feel like the kid and life is good and full of exciting new things all the time.

This year was no exception. We finished our remodel of three years (working only weekends and few vacation days) in February. How nice it was to finally put things in order and enjoy the fruits of our (Geoff's mostly) labors. In April we decided to put it on the market, as had been the plan from the beginning and start looking for another fixer-upper. Well man makes his plans and God directs his steps. After being on the market for a few months we realized that the real-estate market had shifted and we weren't going to get quite as much for it as we had hoped and after much prayer and consulting with our mortgage broker, we decided to stay and refinance the house. This made Jenny very happy for she really enjoys her school and friends. We also decided to rent the lower level of the house to help with the financial plans we started making. I felt good about this decision, but a little hesitant about a stranger living in such close proximity. I started praying that God would bring us someone to live there that we knew and one day after many years of not seeing one another, I ran into my friend Marion Preyer and her daughter at Boeing Credit Union of all places. We started talking and catching up as if no time at all had passed since our last meeting. During the conversation the rental came up and the need her two daughters had for a place to live and how close it was to their work and so on and to my great delight they are now living below us. My prayers could not have been answered in a better way. I'm so grateful that they are here.

Well with the refinance and the rent from below, Geoff and I have ventured into real-estate investing and have acquired a 4plex and a little house in Aberdeen Washington. We are fixing them up on the weekends of course. You ask "why Aberdeen" and my answer is I don't know, its cheap down there and a different world too. However we are having fun and our about two thirds done on the 4plex and hope to have it rented in a month or two. We are getting things done quite a bit faster this time around. The little house was just acquired and this last weekend we cleaned it out and hope to fix it up to sell on a lease/option. Any way that's where this part of our lives has taken us.

Geoff also found himself facing new challenges with a new job at a .com company in Seattle. He was offered this job in June and has found it quite challenging and fulfilling. If your wondering if his company will go the way of other .com's we hope not and so far the company is showing a profit after only being in business for a year and seems to have some heavy hitters interested and buying their service. The company is called FizzyLab (such a silly name in my opinion) and they provide a search engine for companies to help find related information for someone looking up a subject

on the Internet. Other than that its more complicated than I can understand so I will leave it at

that.

Timmy found himself venturing out to different parts of the world this year. He spent the summer in Idaho's back country for 6 weeks with Northwest Youth Corp. They repaired trails for the forest service and did not see civilization the whole time except for when they evacuated them from the fires. After finishing with that, he boarded a plane for Costa Rica to spend 5 months on a organic farm, but found out within a few days of being there that the farm was a cult believing in spiritual geometry and the fourth dimension. He decided that he did not belong so high-tailed it out of there and spent 2 weeks traveling around Costa Rica until the money ran out and we found him home again. I was happy to see him come home. A week ago he finally made the big move out to live with friends in North Seattle. He comes down to Aberdeen with us on weekends to earn extra money, but he's now out of the nest and is flying on his own.

Jenny is doing good and loves school and all the activities she participates in. She still does dance twice a week and this year was on the cheer leading squad for the Bellevue Boys and Girls club. I've got to tell you that this is a big deal with Bellevue and the cheer squad has the outfits that our as good as the high school squad. She looked so cute in the outfit but I must say that it seems a little over the top for her age.

As for me, my time is spent with the kids and the business and the managing of the projects in Aberdeen. Geoff does the work, but I tell him what to do. A great setup, don't you think.

This year we said good bye to our white baby kitty Snikerdoodle who was hit by a car. It probably was the most devastating thing to happen to me. I cried for days, but the Lord in His graciousness, gave me another baby kitty Ollie who is a snuggle kitty and comforted me as no other could. We also said goodbye to Barney after 15 years of faithful and unconditional love to us. I'm confident that I will see them along with those of my family who are now in heaven with the Lord. Its not a forever goodbye.

In January Geoff, Jenny and I are taking off for Disney World and Disney's Big Red Boat that goes into the Caribbean. After 10 years since our last vacation, we are very much looking forward to this break.

Well again we wish you all a very happy and fruitful new year and hope to see many to you this coming year.

All our best

*Fran
Geoff
Tim
Jenny
Slinky our queen kitty
and
Ollie our now big lovable baby kitty.*

P.S. Our website has moved to <http://www.underforty.net>. Why under forty? Well, you'll just have to check it out to find out. Pictures of our projects, pets, old Christmas letters, and more await you.