

Dear Family & Friends,

Happy Holidays! It's once again time for us to send out the annual holiday letter. We apologize for not sending out greetings last year. We didn't forget about you – but you'll soon learn why the last two years have been very busy for our family. So, now here's the rest of the story...

The millennium started off at a heated pace for us. You might remember that we were still living in a rental home in Holly Springs, Georgia. After being in the Atlanta area for a little over a year, we finally decided to buy a house. We closed on the house on Tim's birthday in February. Glorianna quickly adjusted to the new home and we were finally glad to be living in our own home for the first time since we lived in Texas. Jennifer continued to play the piano for a male quartet at our church, and Tim's job with Ariba continued to provide new challenges.

After moving into the new house, we took a small vacation to Gatlinburg, Tennessee with Glorianna, which was her first visit to the Smokey Mountains. It always seems like a good idea to take some time off after moving into a new home just because of the stresses involved with buying a house. We also celebrated Glorianna's first birthday in March. Most of our family came to our new house for her birthday party. She was very enthusiastic and seemed to love the cake and extra attention.

Jennifer was very active in decorating our new home during the first months of 2001. She painted all of the bedrooms and the house was really starting to look great. We did end up having to install a new roof on the house after a heavy storm. Fortunately, our insurance covered all of the expenses, so we got a new roof with no money out of our pockets.

In April our lives began to change once again. The upward trend of technology stocks and high-tech corporations had ended. We know of several people that have been affected in this industry. Tim was required to lay off four people in one day and instantly saw his work life change from a good to a potentially terrible situation. These drastic changes caused us to consider many other alternatives. We seriously considered moving back to Texas; however, the opportunities never seemed to completely come together.

If you will remember, Tim had started taking theology and religious education classes at Dallas Theological Seminary while in San Antonio and later at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. We had previously wondered about how we could use our skills and talents in a ministry environment but no decisions were ever made. We finally began to actively look for employment in a ministry or non-profit organization due to these earlier convictions, the drastic changes in Tim's work environment and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This period of searching lasted around three months. However, during this period of time we were able to have some enjoyable memories. We were able to take Tim's mom to see her first Atlanta Braves game before we (including John Rucker) left Georgia. We also took another small vacation up to Maggie Valley, North Carolina. We love going to the Smokey Mountains and we seem to take every possible advantage for a quick getaway. And, we're glad that we did because the summer months got very busy once again.

We learned about a position at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. We were invited up to the campus to interview for the Director of Information Technology position. We were so excited about the opportunity to work in a ministry environment that would allow us to utilize our skills and training. We still struggled with the decision to make the move but after much prayer we felt like this was the right job and ministry for us. Tim started work for the Seminary on July 13, 2001.

Now we had to put the house up for sell and move once again. We packed everything up and moved into a small apartment in Wake Forest provided by the Seminary while we attempted to sell our house in Georgia. Jennifer also received a job offer during this time. In September, she was offered a position as a Profiles of Ministry Coder for The Association of Theological Schools. Jennifer's former boss at Southwestern, Dr. Colson, recommended her for the position. This new job allows Jennifer to stay at home with Glorianna and work at the same time. This opportunity has been a great blessing for our family.

Well we finally got a contract on our home in Georgia. However, on Oct. 16, 2001, we experienced "the great flood" (that's what we call it anyway.) Our house received about \$20k in water damage due to a broken faucet in one of our upstairs bathrooms. The next few months were obviously very stressful. We lost our buyer and had to take our home off the market while the repairs were being completed. The contractor did a wonderful job on the repairs, especially since all of the floorings in the house were replaced including several areas of ceilings and walls. Thankfully none of our personal

items were left in the house. We did get another contract on the home after the repairs were completed. This allowed us to finally close on the house on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December.

The damage to our home was terrible news but not the worst that we received during this period. Jennifer's grandfather passed away in the early part of December. We were able to see him over the Thanksgiving holiday but he is still missed by our entire family. Jennifer was able to play the piano for his funeral and was very thankful for the opportunity to do so.

We hope that you understand why we did not have the time to send out a Christmas letter last year. The year was filled with many trials but we were also able to see the Lord Jesus Christ become actively involved in directing our lives.

The beginning of 2002 started off very similar to the previous year. We were able to find and close on a new home in Wake Forest. We felt like we had finally finished the transition from Georgia to North Carolina. We have now moved 11 times in our almost 9 years of marriage. This will hopefully be the last move that we have to make for some time.

Tim enrolled in the University of Phoenix's online program for a MS in Computer Information Systems degree. He's currently half-way through the degree program and should be completed by September 2003. The classes are blended with managerial and technical applications which are challenging but very productive at the same time.

We also joined a small local Baptist church. This has given Jennifer the opportunity to play piano for the church choir and other groups requiring accompaniment. Jennifer also currently has one piano student. These activities are enjoyable but Jennifer still believes that her most important job is being a mother for Glorianna.

Glorianna turned two in March. Most of our family came to Wake Forest to celebrate this time in her life. She continues to grow and amaze us as parents. We are very thankful for her health and the talents she continues to display. It seems like she grows and learns something new everyday. She can definitely turn a gloomy day upside down.

We were very fortunate to be able to go to the wedding of John and Stefana Laing earlier this summer. John is a long time friend of ours who recently completed his PhD at Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. John has a wonderful new bride. We only got to spend a small amount of time with them but it's always great to be around your friends.

This summer did not bring about any surprises. We actually were able to take time off to head to the mountains (big surprise) and to see family over the next couple of months.

Our very good friends, Rex and Susan Cunningham, came to visit us in September. This was their first time to North Carolina so we took them to the Outer Banks to see some of the lighthouses and other historic places in the area. This was a great time to relax and catch up with them. We were sad to see them go, but were thankful for the time to spend together.

The holiday seasons are upon us once again. We are looking forward to a time of being with our families without the stress of last year. The best part should be watching Glorianna during these times. She is excited about everything: Christmas trees, grand parents, presents, snow, you name it! We hope to hear from you sometime. Please let us know if you're ever in the area. We hope that God will bless you during the coming year.

Love,

Tim, Jennifer, and Glorianna  
Christmas 2002