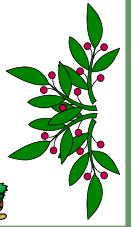




Merry Christmas



Issue 4

December 25, 2001

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dream-
 less sleep
 The silent stars go by:
 Yet in thy dark streets shin-
 eth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all
 the years
 Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
 And gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the
 angels keep
 Their watch of wondering
 love.

O morning stars together
 Proclaim the holy birth;
 And praises sing to God the
 King,
 And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human
 hearts

The blessings of His Heav'n.
 No ear may hear His com-
 ing,

But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will
 receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray,
 Cast out our sins, and enter



Christmas letter number four! Can you believe it?

Andrew and I had a good laugh tonight as we read through our first three Christmas letters. Each year has been an adventure and a joy. This one has been no exception.

This year, like last year, has been full of learning experiences. In August we got a 6 year old dog named Shadow from the Humane Society. His name is ever so appropriate as he follows your every move. He is part German Shepherd and part Australian Cattle Dog so the herding instincts are **STRONG!** We enjoy him most of the time but Andrew can't figure out why whenever he's done something bad he is suddenly "his dog" in my eyes. Good preparation for parenting, I guess! Shadow even prepares us for the pitiful begging children attempt to use to manipulate their parents. When he is on your bad side he sits down next to you and gives you a paw. He won't move until he's seen a smile even if it means switching paws five or six times when one gets tired. Andrew is much more susceptible to this manipulation than I and Shadow takes full advantage of it.

We will begin experienc-
 ing the real joys and tri-
 als of parenting in late
 June as we are expecting
 our first kiddo! We are
 already experiencing the
 joys and trials of preg-
 nancy. Morning sickness
 should be gone any day
 now. It arrived just in
 time for our road trip to
 California. This made
 the "road" part of the trip
 a little more interesting
 when we'd anticipated.
 Andrew had to put up
 with stops every two and
 a half hours for food. I'd
 order a meal, eat a third
 of it and we'd be off again.
 Thank God for his pa-
 tience! On the joyous side
 we were able to hear the
 baby's heartbeat for the
 first time this week at my
 OB appointment. Sud-
 denly it feels less like
 stomach flu and more like
 pregnancy!

We are continuing to work on our house. The big bathroom remodel is coming up in the next

month or so. This will not be a do-it-yourself job though. I'm sure my dad is very happy about that. He will not be developing any new swear words with this project. The bathroom has always been the shame of the house so I am excited to stop apologizing as I direct guests to its location (I assure you I am not exaggerating).

This year has been full of blessings. Both our fami-
 lies are doing well, and
 we continue to enjoy and
 be challenged by our
 church family. My job as
 Lead Nurse at a pediatric
 practice is still fun and
 challenging and Andrew
 is now a Senior Systems
 Analyst with his compa-
 ny. He graduated with
 his Masters this year and
 we praise God for his suc-
 cess. Pray for us this
 year as we tackle preg-
 nancy and parenthood as
 a couple. Thanks to all of
 you for your friendship
 and love.

In Christ,

Andrew and Amber David

