

Dear Friends and Family,

"Love and Joy come to you and to all your loved ones too." -- With the slightly modified words of a favorite Christmas carol, we reflect again on our lives and blessings and hope this note finds all well with you.

It's so true that children are the hope of this life. We've been blessed to have all three of our daughters give us four more grandchildren these last few months (that's right, one had twins!). How can we have 21 grandchildren?! Well, one answer is that we've been married 40 years now! Time surely flies when you're having fun. We wish our grandkids were not all out of state, but then we get to travel to see them individually. And we do have our parrot, Scuffy, who can still mimic the sound of five children laughing and crying at once, filling our home with the sounds of yesteryear. Scuffy, by the way, is coming up on 40 years old and has been with us since before we had any children.

We are continually reminded of the importance of our associations. Keena's youngest brother, Kenny, passed away suddenly this year at the age of 47. Everyone was so impressed with his genuine kindness and the Christlike love he radiated. His family has bountiful memories of a man who continually shared his love.

We cherish the times we can be with our families and friends. After our big dude-ranch reunion last year, we thought it would be a while before we got together again. But a series of coincidences brought us all to the Northwest in July where we rented a lodge on the slopes of Mt. Hood for three days of hiking, reminiscing, and bonding. It was especially fun to watch the kids being goofy doing Dance-Dance Revolution and to see all of the cousins getting to know each other again. Other adventures this year included a couple of days in Yellowstone with Kami, Kerrie and families; our annual motorcycle tour; ATV-ing in the mountains; and 4 days of camping and river-running down the Colorado River.



The whole clan on Mt. Hood



Keena and Twins Scuffy - almost 40

Our new barn, or should we say, hangar?

Ready to launch !

Kent & Ben

Keena - I've been able to go to the homes of all three daughters to help with the new babies. It just melts your heart to have a little baby gaze so sweetly into your eyes. It was also a thrill to be with the other grandchildren, especially when 4 year old Hampton said he likes Oma because "she does everything I tell her." As for extended family, I helped organize our first-ever family reunion in Logan for descendents of my Grandpa Gnehm from Switzerland. It was great to get a lot of neat cousins together and to hear our parents talk about the old days. In my nursing career, I added a new experience of working part-time in a dialysis center. I really admire the people who are so brave and good-natured even though they have to spend 3-4 hours on a dialysis machine 3 times a week. I still can't give up my sweet friends at the Draper Care Center, so I'm doing two 4-hour shifts there. And at church I have the 4&5 year-olds in Primary and get to just be a grandma. They are so cute!

Kent - Not a lot of changes for me this year. GearMaster is growing and keeps me traveling all around the country. I'm still serving as Primary Chorister at church and loving it. Although my term as president of the Homeowners' Association expired last year, I stay somewhat involved as an advisory committee member. The FAA has changed the rules on ultralights, including powered parachutes, and I am now one of only three instructors in the state of Utah certified to teach powered parachutes. That means I'm getting a lot of calls from people who need training. But I'm also able to get some fun flying in. I frequently fly with other pilots exploring many beautiful areas of Utah. Sometimes we'll use the motor home and go for a few days at a time.

And so, with grateful hearts for our blessings and for your friendship, we close with the continuing words of the carol and our wish for you this season - "And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year!"

We send, as always, our love and best wishes,

Note: This letter is also available on our website where the pictures can be enlarged.

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The Next Generation (s)....



Karl and <u>Kristina</u> (Nina) Shurts Ben-15, Michaela-13, Kiana-13, Dallin-11, Kandra-8, Jonathan-4 mo. For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena

The big event: Jonathan's birth on August 21st. A plump, sweet go-everywhere baby, he's adored so much by all the other kids that Nina often has to go looking for him at feeding time. He hasn't slowed the family down at all. They've been a real 4-H family: Ben with pigs, the twins with sheep, Dallin with chickens, Kandra with bunnies and Nina as leader. Big county fair involvement with Nina 8 months pregnant! Ben plays football, attends early morning seminary and loved flying with Kent. The others are involved in soccer, scouts, church, etc., etc. When Karl is not doting over his new baby, he's out admiring the huge rock wall he put in their back yard.





For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena

Krey and Lindy have been giving their children "moments to remember." Krey had to make business presentation in Florida and so the whole family joined him for Disneyworld, Epcot, Kennedy Space Center, Animal Kingdom, World Showcase, Holy Land, Gatorland and the beach – all in four days! Jaedin has been on TV for the Make-a-Wish foundation; there may be a cruise in the future. Cam is a budding engineer. Addie is the princess and knows it. And Berkeley just keeps everyone happy. Lindy throws legendary birthday parties, turning their home into a Paris suburb for Addie's fifth. Krey still gives music lessons and serves as Ward Clerk in the church.



Jared and Kamber Turner	For details or contact info
David-5, Kyle-3, Marie-2, Samuel Ray-2 weeks	please call Kent or Keena

Jared and Kami still enjoy Idaho Falls since moving from Arizona last year. They like moving so much they decided to get a new house with a fenced back yard, pine trees and lots of room for their FOUR (!) children. Samuel arrived on December 10 and is now the attention focal point for everyone. David loves Kindergarten; Kyle is Spiderman most of the time. He now has a black eye from one of his intense adventures but he's really a sweet, gentle boy. Marie holds her own with three brothers. Kami plays horn for the Idaho Falls Brass Quintet and subs in the Idaho Falls Symphony. Jared still likes his job as Project Manager for Ovard Construction.



Neal and <u>Kerrie</u> Davis Kenton-8, Merrill-6, Hampton-4, Greta-2, Sofia & Peter-2 mo.

For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena

TWINS! Sofia Joann at 6-13 and Krey Peter at 7-5. That's over 14 lbs. of baby! They were born on November 2nd, the same birthday as Kristina's twins. Kenton and Merrill both go off to school so Kerrie has "only" four at home. She's been getting a lot of help. Neal often adjusts his work schedule to give Kerrie some sleep time. The ward has been a great help and Keena was able to spend 2 weeks there. A major trip this year was a Davis family reunion in the Ukraine where Neal's dad is serving as mission president. Neal finishes his residency in June and has just accepted a fellowship in Health Services at the University of Michigan.



Kevin and Aleisa Price Janey Lynn-1 year

For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena

Since they live so far away, it's been second best to be able to make video calls with them and see Janey learn to walk, then run and now move things all over. Kevin and Aleisa's reactions are fun to watch, too. We can even see all their home improvement projects from the web cam. How can they put in flooring, knock out walls, build a fireplace mantle, resurface the ceiling, etc., etc.? We don't even try stuff like that. Aleisa was in primary but she now works with the teenagers as Mia Maid advisor. Kevin is still the ward mission leader and choir pianist. His work as Payload Specialist with Boeing recently took him on separate trips to Germany and France.