



Christmas 2008
Season's Greetings
 From Kent & Keena Price



See "Iowa City" below

Dear Friends & Family,

This has been a difficult year for many, what with an uncertain economy, much war in the world and many other crises. As we contemplate what we can do, where we can cut back and so forth, we become ever more appreciative of those blessings we enjoy which money cannot buy - friends, family, health and faith, to name a few.

Our family continues to grow and spread out, sometimes making it difficult to get a lot of one-on-one time with the grandchildren. But this last May, we had a lot of such opportunities. They began with a call from Kerrie's husband, Neal, asking us to help him surprise Kerrie with a trip to Hawaii. (He had been invited to attend a pediatric research conference there.) So we showed up in Iowa City as Walmart Greeters (no, this isn't our retirement profession but the store manager is a friend of Neal's). We were decked out in sunglasses, leis and official greeter badges (that's the picture, above). Imagine Kerrie's reaction as she walked into the store on an errand set up by a friend and was officially greeted by her parents trying to convince her that they were in Iowa to watch her children. After regaining her composure, she and Neal were off to Hawaii for several days while we watched their 6 children - including twins just 6 months old. Yes, it was exhausting but worth it. Then, just a week later, we flew to Oregon to stay with Krey & Lindy's children while they, coincidentally, also went to Hawaii where Krey gave a presentation at an engineering conference. We were also able to see Nina, Kami and Kevin and their families that month.



Nina has our third set of grandtwins on Dec. 5.



20 of our Grandkids

Later in the year, there were more get-togethers. In August, by another "coincidence," we had 20 of our grandchildren (with their respective parents) come and stay with us in Utah. (Kevin's family remained in Washington since Aleisa had better things to do like having another baby.) It was quite the scene with wall-to-wall people crammed into our motor home, a borrowed RV trailer, the barn, and all of the rooms in the house. We're still trying to figure out if it was "chaotic, but fun" or "fun, but chaotic." Great cousin bonding - Lagoon Theme Park, flying in the powered parachute, two extended family reunions, swimming, Wheeler Historic Farm, etc. It was a great vacation for all.

As a couple we had several other activities. Our annual motorcycle safari included the canyon country around Moab and Arches National Park - wonderful scenery. We joined another couple for ATVing and camping in the Wasatch Mountain back country. A highlight was a business/vacation trip to Northern California, visiting dear friends in Stockton (where we lived in the early seventies), Santa Rosa, and the beautiful Mendocino Coast. We also spent a couple of days back in San Francisco on a rented motor scooter.



Cycling through Utah's Canyon Country



The Mendocino Coast



Business and Pleasure



A Candy Drop

Keena - What a blessing to be able to enjoy being with our children and grandchildren. Being a traveling Grandma isn't all that bad. I get trips to Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Iowa. A big change this year is that I'm no longer working at the care center but I'm working more hours at the dialysis clinic. It's still part time so I can continue to schedule time off for "Grandma Trips." I miss my friends at the care center but I'm glad I can still enjoy working. It is a constant reminder of how fragile and precious life can be.

Kent - Again, a year with a lot of activity but not a lot of changes. The economic downturn has slowed GearMaster down somewhat. We are still making sales and have a lot of happy customers, but the industry is slow and many are reluctant to invest in new technologies. I occasionally teach at the local technical college, which is quite enjoyable. And I still fly quite a bit, both as an instructor and for fun. I made several candy drops for children around Halloween time. Another very enjoyable activity recently has been getting together with many of my old classmates and friends from high school, college and my mission time in Germany 45 years ago.

And so, in spite of the many difficulties and problems in the world around us, we rejoice in our relationships with friends and family as well as our many other blessings. Thanks for all you do to enrich our lives.

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

Kent + Keena

Note: This letter is also available on our website where you can zoom in on the pictures.

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The Next Generation (s)....



Karl and Kristina (Nina) Shurts
Ben-16, Michaela-14, Kiana-14, Dallin-12, Kandra-9,
Jonathan-1 ½, Clarissa LaVonne-3 weeks, Simon Henry-3 weeks
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ninashurts8

TWINS AGAIN! With the births of Clarissa & Simon on December 5th, the Shurtses are now a family of 10. The twins came early, but thankfully they are very healthy – and amazingly cute and cuddly. They are lucky to have so many older brothers and sisters to look after them – especially their 14 year old, extremely capable twin sisters. The children are all super involved in music, soccer, scouts, etc., etc. Nina was 4-H leader again and managed their menagerie of animals. Karl is still in the bishopric and does a great job keeping a steady hand on their farm.



Krey and Lindy Price
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The next adventure? How about Australia! Krey has been given an assignment to start up an office for Tetra Tech there. He thought it would be a great opportunity for the family based on his childhood in Germany. Earlier in the year, the family was able to take the Caribbean Make-A – Wish cruise and got the royal treatment. Lindy's creative genius later transformed their back yard and home into an island paradise for Addie's birthday party. Another highlight was to see Cam & Jaedin so well-prepared for their baptism. Right now everyone is busy decluttering for their big move. We'll miss them, but we also hope to visit them.



Jared and Kamber Turner
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A busy family! The day Sam was blessed, Kami was called as ward Primary President. Jared teaches the H.P. group and is a ward missionary. At Ovard Construction he is project manager for a major school addition including the cafeteria and classrooms. Kami stays involved in the music scene, playing her french horn in a brass quintet and in the I. F. Symphony Orchestra. She also taught the master horn classes and ran the horn studio at BYU-Idaho. Mainly, she and Jared keep busy being great parents to their active children – and bringing them to Utah to visit Oma & Opa. Little Sam got a bad burn on his hand. After a month of treatment he's finally back to normal.



Neal and Kerrie Davis
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Back in Michigan! Don't ask us how they did it, but Kerrie and Neal moved all of their belongings and their family with 9-month old twins to Michigan. Neal is doing a pediatric clinical research fellowship at University of Michigan. It was difficult to leave Iowa City but they love their new, larger home and the neighborhood. The children are involved in piano, soccer, gymnastics and scouts. Kerrie found a group to run with and is working with the young women in church. Neal was already called as the H.P. group leader in the ward. We're glad this gives us a reason to go back to Michigan to visit them this summer.



Kevin and Aleisa Price
Janey Lynn-2, Russell Jay-4 months
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The most important event for this Price family was the arrival of Russell Jay on August 12th. He couldn't be cuter or sweeter! Janey loves mothering him and teaching him how to talk and to do signing. Aleisa & Kevin have been busy this summer with more remodeling. They repainted their home, put in new windows and just for fun, put trim around all of the windows. After a lot of traveling last year, Kevin's only international trip for Boeing this year was to Ireland. More recently, he has decided to follow in his dad's footsteps by getting a motorcycle to save gas going to and from work and by flying the powered parachute whenever he gets the chance.