

Dear Friends & Family,

"To remain young while growing old is the highest blessing." (German proverb)

Well, we keep trying for that blessing anyway. Our year was filled with things that we always thought "older" people wouldn't be doing. We took our annual motorcycle safari to the Tetons and Yellowstone; we went camping, canoeing



and horseback riding in the wild San Rafael swell; and flew our powered parachute along and over the Colorado River in the beautiful Moab/Canyonlands area. We have come to really appreciate the grandeur of the American West.

But while we are trying to stay young, we look at our 27 grandchildren – with two new arrivals this year - and realize that time is marching on. They're pretty widely scattered but we were grateful to have Kerrie and Neal and their six children move from Michigan to Utah this last summer. In July, all our kids and grandkids except Krey's family (now in Australia) were here to enjoy the unique and rustic area where we live. Most of our neighbors live on lots with five acres or so and have all kinds of interests – from horses, elk and llamas to ATVs and flying machines. One recent campout included skeet shooting with so many shotguns you would have thought a war was going on. The neighborhood Rodeo included candy being dropped from a powered parachute as well as being shot from a giant slingshot (both compliments of Kent, of course). Keena even joined the Cedar Pass Riders for the opening ceremony. A big gully dubbed "The Grand Canyon of Eagle Mountain" runs through our property and Kent has been dreaming for years about constructing a zip line from top to bottom. So this year, he finally did it to the delight of our grandkids and families around the neighborhood.



**Keena** – Lots of highlights this year: • Seeing how "Our Swiss Heritage", the family history book I compiled, has helped so many people feel appreciation and connection to our ancestors. The project took over three years to complete, but we were able to have a big reunion with my Swiss relatives and pass out over 100 books! • Enjoying our wonderful, loving grandchildren and sharing in their activities (and feeling smug when a granddaughter couldn't decide if she liked her mom or Oma better <sup>(2)</sup>). • Hearing our parrot, Scuffy, yell "MOM!!" from his perch downstairs when he wants my attention. • Being amazed at the acts of kindness and encouragement I observe in my "Compassionate Service" calling in church. • Continuing to work as a nurse as part of a dialysis clinic team, hopefully giving support to some brave, inspiring people.





**Kent** – We still enjoy connecting with friends from years gone by. • This coming May in Salt Lake City, I'll be hosting a reunion of classmates and friends from my high school days in Germany at Kaiserslautern American High School. This group gets together every couple of years at various places around the country and we have a lot of fun. • I've been getting more involved in the activities and organization of the local Harvard alumni group and continue to get together with others from my Munich college days and from the South German Mission. But I try not to live entirely in the past... • The GearMaster project keeps me quite busy. We're in discussions with a couple of companies who are interested in integrating our technology into their

products. • I still do a lot of flight instruction and part time teaching at the local technical college. • And after almost five years serving in one of my favorite callings at church – Primary Children's Music Leader – I was released and am now teaching the Gospel Essentials class in Sunday School. I miss the kids, but I also enjoy teaching.

So in our efforts to stay as young as possible, we are grateful for good health, good friends and for the good news of the Christmas Season. We wish these blessings for all of you.

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

Hent + 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 <u>Kristina</u> (Nina) Shurts Ben-18, Michaela-16, Kiana-16, Dallin-14, Kandra-11, Jonathan-3, Clarissa-2, Simon-2

For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena

The Shurts family is focusing on "bonding" since Ben had the nerve to turn 18 and will leave for college next year. Nina wants fun memories for the family before anyone leaves the nest. They love to just be at home together enjoying the little ones, but they keep active with 4-H fair, soccer, track, seminary, choirs and the oldest four doing ballroom dance together. They are planning a tour of the USA next summer in a recently bought motor home to take advantage of a sabbatical for Karl.







Jared and <u>Kamber</u> Turner David-8, Kyle-6, Marie-5, Sam-3, Anna-1 1/2 For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena

The Turners are enjoying this stage of their family – watching the children become good friends with each other. They love to have game nights, play laser tag with Dad, go camping – and win at baseball. (David is still beaming about his trophy for being undefeated and being the "best hitter"). Of course, our favorite thing is to have them visit Oma & Opa. We've had some fun times with the zip line, flying, and having Marie do her "Suzie Snowflake" ballet with Oma. In church, Jared is ward executive secretary and Kami is Primary president again. (We think they have her marked.)

	Neal and <u>Kerrie</u> Davis Kenton-11, Merrill-9, Hampton-7, Greta-5, Sofia-2, Peter-2	For details or contact info please call Kent or Keena
	The Davis family moved here from Michigan in June and Neal joined a Pediatric clinic with three other doctors. It's been so great to have some family here in Utah so we can get together more often. We love to attend the kids' school, sports, and other activities. They are already involved in piano, soccer, basketball, gymnastics and raising their new dog, Lilly. Kerrie keeps busy getting settled into their new home and chasing very active 3 year old, twins. She is teaching in Relief Society while Neal works with the 12 year olds in church.	



Kevin and Aleisa Price	For details or contact info
Janey-4, Russell-2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , Ella-3 mo.	please call Kent or Keena

Ella Marie Price was born September 10<sup>th</sup>, one day after Esai. That made three children for Kevin and Aleisa - and 27 grandchildren for us. Keena was able to visit in October and thoroughly enjoyed this sweet, new baby. Janey and Russell adore their new sister and are full of life and enthusiasm. Aleisa is an awesome mom and homemaker. And Kevin made her especially proud when he sang so well in the barbershop quartet in a local production of "Music Man." Kevin is still working as a seat engineer for Boeing on the 737 aircraft. So next time you fly Southwest, if you're not comfortable, you now know who to go to.