

# Merry Christmas 1994!

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## A Time to Give Thanks

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who took up our illnesses, carried our sorrows, and was crushed for our rebellion so that we might have peace with God. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." We are very grateful for His perfect Gift and His tender mercies in 1994.

## A Time to Work

Stacy was selected by her coworkers to attend a critical care nursing conference in Atlanta in May. At the same time she made the much-needed switch to day shift. Like many other hospitals across the country, Bloomington Hospital began a series of cutbacks that made Stacy's work more stressful and gave her less time to focus on patient care. After completing over 2 years of service, Stacy took "early retirement" in mid-October. Currently she is excited to be using some of her nursing knowledge in a temporary part-time job standardizing and entering the hospital's standing orders onto computer.

## A Time to Study

Bob switched research areas within computer science and found a very helpful new adviser. Bob is now working in compiler design and implementation. His dissertation proposal involves profiling, a process that helps programmers identify inefficiencies in programs. In December Bob passed his oral examination in which he presented

his proposal and answered questions from his research committee of four. After one more class next semester he will be "all but dissertation," or ABD. He hopes to finish his Ph.D. by the summer of 1996.

## A Time to be Born

We don't know the exact date of the grand arrival, but we expect our first baby to be born late May 1995! We are very excited, and so are our families—this will be the first grandchild on both sides and the first great-grandchild on Bob's mother's side! We are grateful that Stacy's morning sickness was very minimal. Since the start of the second trimester Stacy has felt very good and has been hungry in spurts! Stacy anticipates she'll first feel the baby move around Christmas, the half-way point of the pregnancy.

We are also pleased that our cat, Sweet Pea, passed the one-year mark. Unlike our previous cats, Sweet Pea never leaves the safety of the garage without being held or put on a leash.

## A Time to Serve

After her "retirement," Stacy was able to complete counselor training at the Crisis Pregnancy Center and has been volunteering regularly. As Americans eventually saw that Black slaves were human beings, not property, we continue to pray that we would see all babies in the womb as precious human beings.

We were also finally able to attend membership classes at church. Bob sings in the choir, and we have wonderful friends who are a great source of encouragement and support to us and each other.

## A Time to Wait

"I'm worth waiting for" was the theme of YouthFest '94, Bloomington's first Christian youth festival, held at Bloomington Speedway on a hot, sunny September Sunday. The kids played mud volleyball, took hot air balloon and water slide rides, and heard an evangelistic concert by Audio Adrenaline. Stacy was thrilled to help by coordinating the first aid booth and by asking local merchants to donate supplies. It was great to see members from many local churches united.

## A Time to Play

We celebrated our third anniversary by spending two weeks in Germany visiting friends and touring the country by train. Our adventure took us to old East Germany (now a big construction site), Berlin, Martin Luther's hometown of Wittenberg (we heard *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* on the magnificent pipe organ in the famous castle church where Luther nailed the 95 Theses), Frankfurt, a boat cruise down the Rhein River, magnificent cathedrals, castles, a walled medieval town, Munich, the concentration camp at Dachau, and many others. Although Stacy doesn't know German, Bob remembered enough to get around. We enjoyed the trip immensely and came back with a renewed sense of gratitude for our very blessed country.

We also were able to visit friends and family in Indianapolis, LaPorte, Evansville, and Terre Haute, and to have several people visit us in Bloomington. We love to have guests, so please make plans to come and see us in 1995!

***Peace be with you!***