

*May the Christ-child of
Christmas be part of your life
throughout the coming year!*

Christmas 2008

Dear Family and Friends,

With snow on the ground, the tree decorated, candles throughout the house, Christmas music playing – it must be true, Christmas is around the corner! What a blessed year it has been!

In May I finished my assignment as school psychologist at Elizabeth High School, thinking that I would retire for “good”! In June I led the Swedish Highlights Tour for Anderson Scandinavian Tours and spent 10 days visiting family and friends in Uppsala. I have been so blessed to be able to go “home” every year to see my family.

Duties at church have kept me very busy this year. I have been part of the pastoral search team for the last 20 months as we have been searching for a new pastor. In August-September we were blessed for our hard work! We installed two new pastors in November who we feel are a perfect fit for our church. In January I will be giving up my responsibilities on our Celebration in Worship team, giving me more time for “something else”!

In September-October I had the trip of my dreams. For many years I have wanted to go back to Japan, not as a tourist, but with an opportunity to work.



I have always wanted to share my Japan years with Kristina and Kevin. That became a reality this year. For 8 days the three of us traveled throughout Japan, visiting the places where I lived as a child. We saw the cities and churches where my parents worked, where I went to school, and I enjoyed sharing stories of my early years with my children! What a gift that was!

After they went home, I began 5 weeks of doing volunteer work in several churches in Osaka. My assignments were varied and interesting. I taught some pre-schoolers English, led some Sunday School classes and Bible studies, preached a couple of times, spoke to women’s and youth groups, and worked a few days at the Mead Christian Center. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to re-connect with some old friends, make new ones, and learn a lot!



Here on the home-front I have my arms full of love, as you can see! Toby and Michael (6 _), Christopher (8), Maia (4) and Alexandria (3) keep me young at heart and in spirit. We all live within 3 miles of each other so we see each other often. Never a dull moment!!

In this season I want to stop and reflect on the many blessings I have. God has been good to me. He has given me a loving family and wonderful friends like you!

May the peace of Christmas be in you!

Margareta

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