

## Merry Christmas Happy New Year! Christmas 2009

Dear Family and Friends,  
Your Christmas cards are already arriving; we have already experienced a deep freeze and snow in Colorado; I've sung in several Swedish Christmas programs; today we lit the third Advent candle -- Christmas is definitely approaching with giant steps!

On my return from Japan last fall, I was asked to work part time in a local elementary school. The spring semester kept me busy doing that - and I realized what fun it was to work with elementary school children! After "retirement" four years ago, this is actually the first fall that I am not doing part time work. I'm trying to get into the groove of "real" retirement!

During the summer, Kristina, Dave, Toby and Maia, were able to join me in Sweden for a week. We stayed on a beautiful island in the Stockholm archipelago - enjoying the ambiance of true Swedish summer (both rain and sunshine!) with family and friends. After they returned home I conducted another tour made up of a Lindquist family group who were excited to meet many of their Swedish relatives and see their ancestors' home areas.

In August, my sister Alice, and several other Swedish missionary kids born in China, went to Qingdao (our birth city) to learn more about our heritage. We spent many days meeting old friends who had known our parents. In Jiaozhou, our home town, we went to the church which is built on the property where we lived. My Uncle Oscar's house is still standing, and we were excited to be able to go inside the house and reminisce of life 50 years ago!! We also visited the new campus of Jiaozhou No.1 High School, which had its beginnings with our mission and where both our Grandmother Rinell and our Father worked for many years. It was amazing to see a display of the early days of the school with pictures of Grandfather and our family. Alice helped make this a perfect trip because of her knowledge of the language and all the connections that she's kept throughout the years.

My activities this fall have included spending Mondays with my youngest granddaughter, Alexandria and my pastor's "adopted" grand-children;

volunteering one day a week at my grandchildren's school (all four who are in school attend the same school which is within walking distance to my home!); driving some of the children to Colorado Children's Chorale practices; being part of a church renovation committee; co-chairing a Mission Fair for our church; Swedish book club and choir with several performances at this time of year; church choir; church school teaching; spending time with family and friends, etc. etc.!! There is never a dull moment in my life!



The blessings in my life --  
Christopher (9), Michael (7\_)  
Toby (7\_), Maia (5),  
Alexandria (4)

I am blessed to have my children and grandchildren so close. We see each other often! I have also been blessed with good health, for which I am very thankful. And I am blessed to have you, my family and friends, close to my heart.

I pray that this season of CHRISTmas will bring you happiness and peace in a world torn apart by wars and rumors of wars!

Lovingly,

Margareta

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