

Dear Friends and Family,

A joy near Christmas is to hear from each of you and catch-up on your trials and adventures. We hope this letter finds you happy, healthy, and grateful for all your blessings. The economy has made us more aware of the blessings we have, as many around us are challenged to do more with less.

Last Christmas Eve found us at a church in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was standing room only when we arrived. We thought we'd listen to the music for a bit and leave. But we were escorted to the 3rd pew, apparently saved for visitors, behind the little girls dressed as angels and boys dressed as Santa's elves. Hugh kept hoping the candles they were carrying would not catch the angel wing feathers on fire. Just the beginning of our fascinating time in Vietnam. The people were more welcoming than we had reason to expect and the scenery is so varied. The children with their water buffalo and woman with the fruit are typical images.

In February, Hugh's brother, Dick, joined him in the Netherlands. While Hugh worked Dick saw the sights. They have not revealed much about their evening in Amsterdam's red light district!

Becky's winter and spring were focused on her Dad and Mom. The "Failor Spring Fling" had over 150 guests celebrating Dad's 90th birthday, their 65th wedding anniversary, and to say farewell to Ohio. The next few weeks of moving were chaos and the story is too long to tell. But Mom and Dad now are settled in their new assisted living home in Tucson, Arizona. This location is near Becky's sister, Peggy, who does so much for them. At Easter, Becky's niece had a outdoor Tucson wedding, with Dad and Mom in attendance.

Our summer trip was to Alaska. From beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia we cruised the inside passage ending in Seward. Saw whales, eagles, calving glaciers ... just glorious. Then we flew NORTH to Deadhorse, Alaska, on Prudhoe Bay, Arctic Ocean. Our next two days was really seeing Alaska - a drive down the Dalton Highway, along the Alyeska oil pipeline, through the Brooks Range, ending in Fairbanks. If you've ever seen Ice Road Truckers (<http://www.history.com/content/iceroadtruckers-season-three>), you've seen the Dalton Highway! During our day in Denali National Park we saw 15 bears, Dall Sheep, fox, ptarmigan, arctic hares, lynx, etc. We ended the trip with a few days in and around Anchorage.

Work, for both of us, has settled into a pattern. Luckily Hugh is down to one full-time job. He enjoyed his years working at Site 300 and is happy he was able to "work himself out of that job". He continues to travel to the Netherlands a few times a year. One of Becky's projects was facilitation of an international meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since it was over Thanksgiving week, Hugh joined her. It is a beautiful city. You will not see a picture of us trying to tango! We did see a glorious tango show.

This year, during our Christmas/New Year's trip, we return to South America to see Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands. We hope your holiday plans fulfill your dreams, whether you include relaxation, family, travel or a combination. As we count our blessings we include you and the memories we have with you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR

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