

The twenty-sixth annual Christmas letter from Charlie & Lisa Gross

December 2013



Praise be to Almighty God for another year of extravagant blessings! We've been able to spend some great quality time with our four granddaughters this year. Ivy is now 12, Paige is 10, Ella was 2 on Valentine's Day and Autumn turned 1 on Oct 15th (she shares Jeff's birthday). We even bought a Highlander in the Spring so we could have all 4 with us! God has extravagantly blessed us! Lisa and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in July with a marvelous cruise from Stockholm to St. Petersburg, Russia. Our first exchange student, Katrin Hackenschuh, and her mom joined us for this adventure.



The weather was perfect and the sights were spectacular! The picture to the left is the Russian Orthodox Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood. We visited the Hermitage, St Catherine the Great's summer cottage, Peterhof and other stunning sights.

We give St. Petersburg 4 thumbs up!



Jeff continues to thrive as an Associate Director at Navigant. He leads complicated world-wide biotech projects to help clients accurately position their products. He completed his first "tuff mudder" this year, which helps him stay in shape to chase Ella and Autumn around the house. Taryn took on a new role with increased responsibilities at Clinical Care Options. She does this full time while handling the other full time job of mom and wife.



Angie bought a house this year in Landisville and the girls love it. She also added a dog and a cat to the family. She excels at school nursing in the Hempfield school district and is working toward her School Nurse Certification. We're very proud of all her accomplishments and her tenacity. Ivy is now in 7th grade and doing well. Paige is in 5th grade, loves to dance, play, and build creative things with Pop Pop.

Oh, BIG news! Lisa retired from Cardiac Consultants in June, after diligently serving for almost 18 years! She is now quite happy using her hospitality gifts for the family, church and immigrants! She manages to balance quite a heavy load of meals and services for the family, the

church and others. She is now able to drive more frequently for Church World Service and she continues to help the Dhimial family with various projects.

Lisa and I were extraordinarily blessed to cruise in January and April to the Caribbean and then to spend a few days in May in Houston, TX with Hugo, Claudia and the girls. Hugo Garcia was our second foreign exchange student from Monterrey Mexico. He is now a U.S. Naval Officer, attending dental school at the University of Texas at Houston.



Charlie's exciting project got launched on Nov 24th. He started First Mobile Church – a 45 minute church service via a conference call. It meets every Sunday at 9am, by calling 530-881-1212 and entering meeting ID 345-710-914#. More info is available at firstmobilechurch.org! The service attendance continues to grow and we would love to have you worship with us at 9am EST. You don't have to dress up! In fact, you could be at the beach or walking the dog!

Well our prayer for you is that you experience the amazing grace and love of Almighty God found abundantly in Jesus Christ! Have a joyous 2014!

Extravagant Blessings from

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We love to cruise!

Even on a log raft in Falmouth, Jamaica!

P.S. Charlie had the honor of opening the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in prayer on Oct 2nd. See it at: <http://vimeo.com/77833574>