

### Season's Greetings to You!

Wow, what a year we've had. There is nothing like starting off a new year with car trouble. Doug's truck had the emergency brake short out the electrical system and then the heating core needed to be replaced. It seems to be running well now and we hope that the new year doesn't start off like the last.



Some of the more memorable events this year were: the first Poppies of the year arrived in February, Chris Reyes (one of Doug's boyhood friends) graduated Valedictorian of his college class, we served 200+ snow cones at the church Block Party and we had the pleasure of attending Marc and Christina Arnold's baby shower for their new son Brett, born on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Doug was asked to be in the church Christmas play this year, unbeknownst to us when he agreed to participate, he will be the lead character and the only adult in the whole play. They started practice in October for the December 9<sup>th</sup> program.

This was the first year that Doug and I have spent Thanksgiving by ourselves, just the two of us, in 22 years. It was quiet, but the weather was beautiful so we enjoyed it.

We had a few people visiting this year as well. Marc, Christina and Derek Arnold came for an overnight visit early in the year before their 2<sup>nd</sup> child was born. Michelle Daley dropped in on her way to the Celebrate Recovery Conference and Doug's mom, Betty, came for several visits throughout the year.



We had a few get-togethers with some friends- Chris and Karen Reyes, the Haprov wrestling crew, Pat and Marilyn Dufresne, and Matt and Brandi Dudley. Good times for all!



Sporting events were plentiful this year. Doug won tickets to his first L.A. Lakers game. The food was pricey, but the atmosphere was exciting and we had a really great time. We were also able to enjoy a few Angels baseball games with our church. Doug went to a Ducks hockey game with his coworkers Ryan and Fon and Doug honed his golf skills in the church league over the summer.

Last but not least, we were invited by Jim Ritch to attend a San Diego Chargers game at Qualcomm Stadium in December. Doug is really excited about this because it will be his first time seeing his favorite team in their stadium. We can't wait!

Doug is still working as Webmaster for the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program which gave him many opportunities to travel to Las Vegas for meetings and to various areas to photograph different events. His company picnic was at Knott's Berry Farm this year which was fun. Doug also had a great time reconnecting with some friends at Photoshop World in September.

I still work from home, with 3 amazing clients, and part time in our church nursery.

This brings us to our wonderful son Jesse. He's had quite an eventful year. As many of you know, he is interning in Los Angeles at the Dream Center. He works in the kitchen, serves meals to the homeless during their Adopt-A-Block times on Saturday mornings and helps with the 4-5 year olds on Sunday mornings at Angelus Temple. He has been taking night classes at Angelus Bible Institute and was recently sponsored for the full 3 year program. He has decided to stay at the Dream Center until his classes are complete. We've been able to go down to L.A. to visit him and he occasionally comes home for a few days. We did have a wonderful 5 day trip in September with Jesse, his roommate James and Tim, a friend and fellow intern from our church. We really enjoyed the time together and the young men enjoyed seeing the wonders of Devil's Postpile National Monument, Bodie State Park, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks. We'll see Jesse again before Christmas.



Speaking of Jesse, he wanted to include the following update for everyone:

*Dear Friends and Family,*



*It has been a long and interesting year. I came with the intentions of only staying in L. A. a few months. I thought I was coming to get some experience before moving to New York. Little did I know how much experience I needed. Yet all that has happened has been for the best.*

*I came here to the Dream Center right out of high school, not seeing a clear direction in college. While here I have had many of the core opportunities presented by colleges, with a few added delights. I have been given the room to grow and adjust to simply be myself in varying conditions. I have even started to take classes at night to increase my understanding and better prepare for the future. And I have grown to enjoy a great many things while here as well, from how to cook goulash to showing someone how to change their life.*

*Through this past year there are some things that remain unchanged. I still am here to serve in any way I can, whether that be by playing with the kids at church or picking up trash. I am still working in the kitchen, feeding the masses (300-500 meals 3 times a day) that live at the Dream Center so they are able to go out into the community day by day without the worry of missing a meal.*



*I plan to continue my stay in Los Angeles until my schooling is finished in three years. In the meantime, I will continue serving here at the Dream Center, attempting to change the world one meal at a time. Thanks to everyone who has supported me in this and to those who keep me in prayer.*

If you want to learn more about Jesse's internship or ways you can help, please feel free to contact us.

It's been an awesome year and we look forward to 2013. We always love spending time with friends so if you happen to be in the area, please let us know. We would love the company!☺ We love you all and are blessed to have you in our lives.

Have a very Merry Christmas,  
Doug, Renee and Jesse Zeliff



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