

## Zeliff Family Christmas Letter 2015

If you have received this letter, you have been on or have been added to our annual Christmas card list which you may either count a blessing or some strange trap you have been unable to escape from despite your best efforts. I hope as you read further, you will find the recollections of the year past enlightening, enjoyable or at least bearable. I will make every effort to keep it concise as the tales of the past year are presented herein.

The year started off with the celebration of Sabrina's birthday for which Renee made an incredible rainbow cake at Sabrina's request. Six different colored layers and six different colors of icing made it unlike anything Sabrina had enjoyed before.

After celebrating Renee's birthday in February, we took a vacation for a few days to Orange County to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We toured the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Mission San Juan Capistrano and strolled along Laguna Beach as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean. Our journey together has taken us across the country and around the world with the same love still burning bright in our hearts for the Lord and each other.

In March, a very rare event occurred as I shaved off my goatee and cut my hair while looking for work. Jesse was stopped in his tracks as he had no recollection of a clean shaven and clean cut dad. A few months later, they would return, but it was something I tried just to change things up. It did open the door for me to return to work in April for a local manufacturing company after a very long period of unemployment. Also in April, Renee flew to Texas to drive with her mother, JoAnne, up to Michigan where they cleaned out mom's condo to prepare it for sale.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Jesse and Sabrina shared the exciting news that they were expecting a baby. The due date was set for December and we were delighted to hear we would be grandparents. At the end of May, Renee would FINALLY return from her Texas/Michigan trip bringing me the companionship I had missed so badly. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, I turned in my notice with the manufacturing company as I decided to return to education. I decided to reapply for my CA teaching credential and begin again on a Masters of Divinity degree I had left behind in 2001. In July, our pastor at First Assembly of God invited me to teach a four week series on Wednesday nights.

A call came in August from Victor Valley Union High School District that I had been hired as the Computer Media Specialist at Silverado High School. It was a position I previously held from 2003-2006 at another local school. In September, I received notification that CA had reissued my teaching credential. Jesse and Sabrina also celebrated their first anniversary in September as her baby bump began to show.

October was filled with great activities as well. Sabrina had her baby shower with Renee's mom making the trip out from Texas to participate in the festivities. I took a trip to Seattle with my best friend Jim to catch a Seahawks game. We hung out with my brother Chris who acted as our chauffeur after driving up from Portland. Near the end of the month, we met up with Renee's best friend, Michelle, and her family for dinner while she was out from TX.

Prior to Thanksgiving, I was accepted into Oral Roberts University's School of Graduate Theology recovering many credits I had thought lost in 2001. We made a trip to San Diego for a Chargers game, dinner with the Arnolds and a trip to Sea World. We spent a quiet Thanksgiving at home as we awaited the approaching birth of our granddaughter in December.

Normally, this letter would have been in the mail following Thanksgiving, but I had declared that no Christmas cards or letters would be sent until the little one had made her premiere. It turned out we would not have to wait as long as had been initially thought. Instead of waiting until her due date, Isabella came into the world on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 pm. She weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long. Mom and baby came home from the hospital the following day and are both doing well.

This truly is a case of "saving the best for last" as our year finishes with our being grandparents. She is adorable and our hearts are overflowing with love for this precious little gift. As I stare down at her, I am reminded of the Lord and the day Mary held Jesus knowing that He was destined for greatness. I am grateful for the many blessings we have enjoyed this year and hope that your family too has had moments of joy. May the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ impact your life with love and peace as it has ours.

Merry Christmas and blessed New Year,  
Doug, Renee, Jesse, Sabrina and Isabella Zeliff



Laguna Beach on our 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary – February 17th



Doug, Jim & Chris in Seattle  
October 18th



Our Granddaughter Isabella  
December 5<sup>th</sup>