

Gordon Christmas Letter 2009

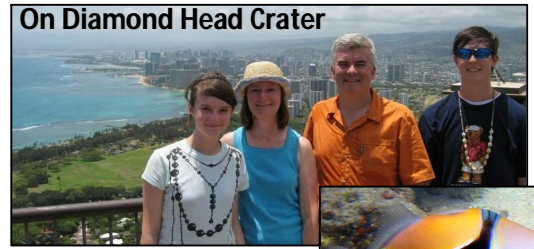


It was a fun year for the Gordon family as all four of us visited Hawaii for the first time. We did it as Andy's graduation trip by using air miles. We also got a lucky break before the trip by attending a travel sales presentation with a prize of five free hotel nights in Waikiki. What a deal! We praised God for providing a way. Such a trip is just not normally in our budget!

Our favorite part of the June trip was snorkeling, which we were able to do in five different places. We spent five nights on Oahu and three on the Big Island. We enjoyed hiking through a rain forest and up Diamond Head, swimming, seeing the volcano and lava flows, surf lessons (Emily and Jay), Pearl Harbor, taking pictures, visiting old friends (now a Navy Chaplain stationed there), kayaking with dolphins, and just seeing the beautiful sights and sunsets.

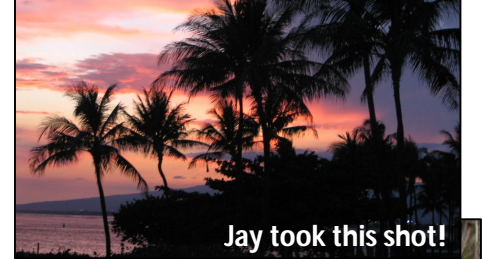
Emily is a high school freshman at Evangel Classical Christian School this year. Outside of school she has learned to play guitar this year and plays in a band with some friends. She really works hard at it and plays quite well. She is also involved in the drama team as part of Westwood's Student Ministry. Mission trips to South America with mom are also an annual event for her. She is so ready to have her learner's permit to drive. She'll be fifteen Dec. 20!

Andy graduated from Thompson High School this year and is now attending Jefferson State



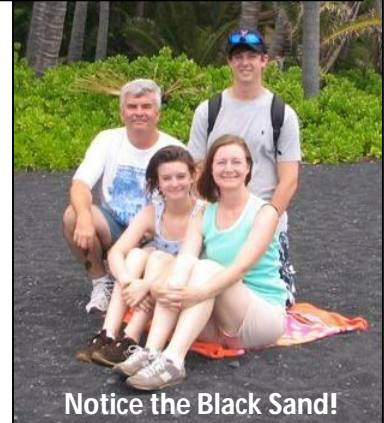
On Diamond Head Crater

State fish of Hawaii:
The humuhumunukunuuapuaa



Jay took this shot!

Community College. He plans to transfer to the University of Alabama next year for a major in engineering and minor in business or real estate. Business and real estate are also under consideration. He has a number of part time jobs, one of which has been selling BluTek motorcycle helmets. He and Jay made a trip to Chicago back in February and spent three days selling helmets to vendors and individuals at a trade show. He spent months remaking his motorcycle and it's on the road again. Andy plans to spend six weeks doing missions in Ecuador this summer. He is raising financial support and if you'd like to help, please visit GoE3.net, click on "sponsor a friend" and follow instructions. The trip code is EC10P.



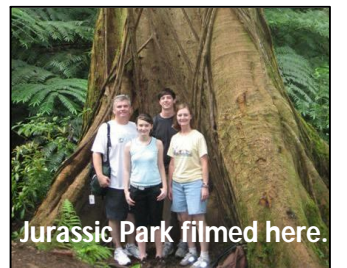
Notice the Black Sand!

Jay has now been at Westwood Baptist Church for 15 years as of October 2009. He serves as Pastor of Small Groups there. The church now has more Home Groups than adult Sunday School classes. He oversees a total of 60 adult groups, supervises the age group ministers, as well as the men's and women's ministries of the church. A new thing the church started this year is Celebrate Recovery, which helps people deal with hurts, habits & hang-ups. As part of that ministry Jay wears a shirt that says "I have issues." No one is surprised.



Go, Emily!

Liz continues to lead mission trips to South America as part of her work with E3 Partners. Her primary country and most of her trips are to Ecuador. We'd love for you to go along and see the work first hand. It will change your life for the better. For more info, please visit her site at GoE3.net. Be sure to check out some of E3's work at IAmSecond.com, a site that allows famous people to share about what Christ means to them. Liz also pet sits, enjoys reading, church choir, and holding down the fort at home.



Jurassic Park filmed here.



Tara & show!

This year we welcomed our newest member of the family, Tara. Liz and Emily found her at the animal shelter after a long search. Other than not letting Andy pass through the garage on the first day, she has been the perfect dog!

Sending Christmas cards & letters is one of our favorite Christmas traditions. You are among friends who have been a big part of our lives and you mean much to us. Even though we might not get to spend time with you throughout the year, we want you to know what you mean to us! We'd love to hear from you as well, so please stay in touch.

May the joy of knowing Christ be yours this Christmas season!

Jay, Liz, Andy & Emily

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10