

Gordon Christmas Letter

Jay, Liz, Andy & Emily 2013



We hope this letter finds you doing well and getting ready for the Christmas season! We use this as a time to catch up with family and friends, so here's what's happening.

Starting with the pictures, we attended a **Braves** game at Turner Field on opening weekend. It seems to always fall on Liz's birthday and she is always so appreciative of a gift trip to see the Braves. Okay, maybe not. Any birthday suggestions for 2014?



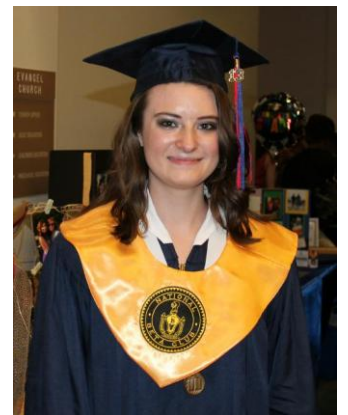
The second shot is from **Mt. Vernon**. Jay attended a conference in Williamsburg and Liz tagged along. We got to spend a half day in Colonial Williamsburg and the best surprise was that Liz's cousin is head of the archeology department there with over 60 million artifacts. We were treated to a personal, hands-on tour of the archives.

As you see in the third shot, **Emily graduated** high school this year. She moved back to Alabaster for her final semester and finished at Evangel Classical Christian. The summer found her in North Little Rock working as a summer missionary for the Baptist association here. Her team helped smaller churches with Bible schools, etc. In August she started her freshman year at Troy University (AL) majoring in business.



Emily enjoys frequent trips back to Birmingham to visit friends and take ballroom dancing. At Troy she does CrossFit and Ultimate Frisbee. In October, she and Andy did Color Run together in Tuscaloosa.

The final picture is one I took from TV. Andy is in the one in the ski mask. We got to see him quite a few times on **ESPN**. He is an officer in Crimson Chaos, an organization sponsored by the athletic department that assists with sports promotions, and thus gets to sit right under the goal at Coleman Coliseum, where they harass the opposing team during free throws. Andy will finish in May with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. We're looking forward to getting one off payroll.



Liz continues to do mission trips with E3 Partners Ministries. She led trips this year to Ecuador and Peru. One of the trips was to the Peruvian **Amazon jungle** which was a real adventure. If your church is interested in going, let her know. Jay is also working toward going on volunteer staff with E3 Partners.

Also with E3 she now serves as medical manager. In that position she manages projects and works with teams preparing to go on medical trips. She is also volunteering as an ESL teacher (English as a Second Language), and works part time at the Mother's Day Out program of Central Baptist Church.

Last Christmas, the whole family was together here in Arkansas and on Christmas Day, we got **10 inches of snow**. On day two of the power outage, we ran an extension cord across the street to the neighbor's house, allowing the fridge and freezer to catch up, but more importantly, to power the satellite receiver so that Andy could watch NBA and Jay the news.



We are enjoying Arkansas but sure miss family and many friends in Alabama. Our Alabama house sold in May, spending only 8 days on the market.

Sending Christmas cards & letters is one of my 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 value your friendship! 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!

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