

Gordon Christmas Letter

Jay, Liz, Andy & Emily 2015



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

One of the biggest highlights of 2015 was our purchase of a home. Although our address is officially Sterrett, Chelsea is the nearest town. Down our road is both a Catholic monastery and a nudist colony. Fortunately they aren't next door neighbors. Also, I heard on talk radio that Big Foot was sighted near Sterrett, but all we've seen are deer, racoons, and possums.

We've now been back to the Birmingham area for just over a year, moving from North Little Rock, Arkansas in September of 2014. I (Jay) serve as Adult and Small

Groups Minister at The Church at Brook Hills. We lived in an apartment for eight months while searching for a house. We discovered online real estate auctions on foreclosures and finally won on the third attempt. Now, for the price of a small garden home, we have a big house in a nice neighborhood. We were amazed and thankful to God for the blessing.

Liz continues to work for E3 Partners in two separate roles. She had five trips this year and led E3's first trip to Barcelona, Spain. Her other trips were to Ecuador, Peru, and Panama (pictured at the canal above). Along with some house renovations and a part time job in the Birmingham E3 Medical Office, she has been working hard all year.

At church, we have a new Senior Pastor who formerly served as our Worship Pastor. It has been a smooth transition for the church and everything seems to be going well. I (Jay) work with adult small groups in the church--enlisting leaders, training them, and serving the needs of the groups and leaders. In September I enjoyed a visit to Philadelphia to visit Andy. The trip allowed me to check two more major league ballparks off my bucket list of seeing a major league game in all 30 cities. I've now completed 22. We also went to a Peru-USA men's soccer game.

Andy is still in Philadelphia where he works as an Applications Engineer for SKF, a company that specializes in ball bearings for industrial applications. He recently came to Alabama two weekends in a row--one for the Alabama-LSU game and again for work to investigate some bearing failures on a ship docked in Mobile Bay. SKF assigned Andy the southern Wisconsin region for customer support, so he travels there a few times a year. The picture to the right is Andy and his girl-friend Sienna.

Emily has completed two years of college at Troy, majoring in marketing, but took the fall semester off. She is seen above in the Spartan Race in Atlanta. Emily came to live with us in B'ham where she worked at Academy Sports for a while, but is now working as a server at Outback Steak House. We enjoyed the family discount at Outback the first time she waited on us. If I had known in advance I would have ordered the Porterhouse Steak! Emily and her boyfriend Daniel are in the picture above dressed in the same shirt, thus the strange looks.

Liz and I are going on a medical mission trip to the Amazon River in mid-December. There we'll travel by boat to villages to do medical clinics in support of evangelism and church planting. It is a large team of 25 with many medical professionals, students, and a number of non-medical people as well. I hope to fish for piranha one day after work.

Just so you know, we give highlights of the year in this letter, and most everything looks great. But we face bad times and struggles and disappointments just like each of you. I don't want to give any pretense that everything is always great. It's not. So please keep us in your prayers and we will do the same for you!

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 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

