

Christmas 2004

A Year of Homecomings

Once again, it is time to count our blessings, to rejoice in God's great love for us, and remember our family and friends.



Surely a most significant event of this past year was the homegoing of our dear mom on June 15 at age 96. She was the youngest and last of her generation of 15 brothers and sisters in the Lowder and Norland clans.

Her passing was a time of rejoicing and celebration for her life of 96 years and more especially because she knew Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord, blessing all of us with confidence in her eternal security.

Mom was much loved, appreciated, and enjoyed by everyone. Never a bad word said about her and she never said a bad word about anyone else. Don't we all wish that could be said of us? And oh, how we do hope and pray that all of our loved ones will make the same choice that she did to know and follow Jesus. You can view more about mom's life and about the Norland and Lowder clans at this Internet site: www.upquick.com/family

Among the great events of 2004 were having three of our kids home with us for the first time since we have been in Arizona ... not all at the same time yet, we're still looking forward to that, but how nice it was to have each of them home for a while.

Jason was the first home for Christmas '03 and New Years '04; and he actually made home again in November to consult with his dad about the Smart Card marketing company for which he is National Sales Manager. We had a fine time together, including cheering over the great election results. Learn more about Jason's innovative business here: www.studentcrew.com



Jason, Patti, and Joe are victims of Joe's first attempt with a self-timer on a digital camera that we got for our trip to England.

See more family photos here: www.upquick.com/family

Greg was next to come home in May, and while we were sad that Cathy was not able to be with him, it was wonderful of Greg to make that special trip just to spend some time with us. Later, in August, we had a great visit with Greg and Cathy at their home when we returned to the Pacific Northwest for a little Camano Island homecoming. We stayed with some wonderful new friends, John and Jacquie, on the island, went to the beach, the State Fair, the Seattle waterfront, and celebrated Patti's birthday at the Space Needle. Greg and his business partner Scott are now in their 13th year in their music "DJ" business and they were selected as DJs of the Year by Seattle Bride magazine. You can view their website at this Internet address: www.djseattle.com



Tracie certainly has had some of the biggest news of the year. She was offered an "early-out" from the Air Force and decided to accept the offer so she could return to college ... although there were some other very big considerations in her thoughts. She came home from August to October and then went right back to England where she and Lt. Wesley Higginbotham announced their engagement to be married December 18. They then plan an Arizona homecoming for a more formal wedding in the fall.



Wes will be deployed to Qatar in January for four months, after which they have put in their requests for several possible state-side assignment locations.

Among other 2004 highlights, we joined a wonderful Christian home group that has been a great blessing, and through them, we adopted an Indian orphan God-child named Vinodh, one of 1,800 at an Indian Christian Mission: www.showthemlove.org

Of course, our trip to London and Rome was super (here we are in the Colosseum) View more pix here: www.upquick.com/travels

With Patti's helpful critique and input, Joe just this month finished his first AV7 book: ***The Most Essential Truths in the Bible*** Samples here: www.av7.org/most

We pray that 2005 will be your best year yet.

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