



December, 1997

# Merry Christmas!

We hope this letter finds you well and happy.

Matt is now a sophomore in high school. He is still playing trombone in the marching band, and has joined the Men's Chorus this year. He is doing well in his studies, and enjoys most of his classes. During the summer he spent a week at the Sierra Service Project on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. His team repaired the roof and did some dry-walling for a needy Hopi family on First Mesa, while Sharon worked on another roof nearby. It was a great experience that he looks forward to repeating next year (Sharon is going to pass).

In addition to keeping the computer system, etc., up and running for Kawasaki Motors, Dale has been reviewing the design for a replacement of the failing sound system at UUMC. Just to keep busy, he has also been running the sound for the in-house concerts for Shade Tree Stringed Instruments, for the Southern California Traditional Music Society's concerts in Aliso Viejo, and for the Laguna Beach concerts in Bluebird Park. This has been a lot of fun, and it is turning into quite a rewarding second job!

Sharon is still teaching students with multiple disabilities. Each year the challenges are a little different, as are the rewards. She is still taking classes at Cal State Fullerton to get her special education credential, and will finish in May 1998. Hooray!!!!

Dale & Sharon again sang special music at the United Methodist Churches in Irvine and Rancho Santa Margarita. They also sang in a Christmas concert at Shade Tree Stringed Instruments.

The highlight of the year was celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June with family and friends, then taking our first trip to England to continue the celebration! The three of us were joined by Sharon's parents for a truly special trip. In addition to touring London, we took a number of day-trips by train to see other sights in southern England, including Dover, Stonehenge, and our friend Alison in Exeter. We learned the ins-and-outs of public transportation, saw where the Beatles recorded, and got a glimpse of Nelson Mandela as he entered Buckingham Palace in a horse-drawn carriage during the changing of the guard. It was an experience we will never forget!

Merry Christmas! May God bless you abundantly with love and peace in 1998!

Love from Dale, Sharon, and Matt

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