

Merry Christmas 2008!

Once again it's time to share our news with friends and family. We love to hear your news and we hope you like reading ours also. If you don't, well, just recycle this letter right now!

Dale is still working at Kawasaki as a systems programmer, as he has for almost 33 years. He is still singing with Gospelfolk, a special music group at church that specializes in, what else, gospel and old-time music. He also sang solos in the choir concerts in June and December. People tell him his voice is getting better and better and I agree!

After a long job search, Matt finally found employment! From May until October he worked for Vivendi, a video game developer, testing games for bugs. He got laid off in October, but he was only out of work about three weeks before he started his new job at (drumroll, please!) Nickelodeon Studios in Burbank. Now he is testing computer-animated characters for bugs! This position comes with perks such as dept heads who compete to have the best candy and getting paid to see *Madagascar 2* at Dreamworks Studios! If you catch a new show on Nick about the penguins from the *Madagascar* movie, remember that Matt worked on it! He is really enjoying this job!

As for me, well, the beginning of this year was incredibly difficult, as it was for the whole family. Among a series of losses was the death of my brother, Steve. Ordination interviews were only five weeks later and there was no way I could pass in that state, so I didn't. This made things even worse. After much prayer and therapy, I am finally back to being myself. I am ending this year on a brighter note, reapplying for ordination and starting a new exciting adventure! I am part of a committee that is leading interfaith worship and faith-based support for children with disabilities and their families! We had our first service on December 21, and it was a joyous, amazing time! I am looking forward to the next one.

Dale and I spent a week in August at Convict Lake with my family, then a few days in Yosemite, then over to San Jose, where Dale attended a conference while I explored the area. Matt, meantime, was in Buffalo, NY, where he was best man at his best friend's wedding. It was the longest we had been away from home for a long time, and it was very relaxing and renewing!

Thanksgiving was amazing, with a huge (as always) family-and-friends celebration, followed by two days at Disneyland to extend my mom's 80th birthday celebration (continued from September!). Christmas will be just as fun, just as long, if more spontaneous!

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may the light of Christ shine on you and your loved ones, lighting the way to hope and peace in your lives and in the world in 2009. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love from Dale, Sharon, and Matt McCart Dmccart@aol.com, smccart@aol.com, mattmccart@aol.com