

Christmas 2001

Dear Friends and Family,



Is it time again for our annual Christmas letter? The year 2001 has had its ups and downs but we're hanging in there and are doing OK. We hope it has been a good one for you.

We really don't know where the first four months went. In May we escaped across the pond for a two week tour of Europe. We started in London. Then we caught a ferry from Dover over to Calais, France where we picked up our tour bus and guide who proceeded to transport us and 40 new friends to Amsterdam, Koblenz, Rothenburg, Munich, Innsbruck, Venice, Florence, Lake Lucern, Paris and back to London. Our little tour group had representatives from California, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, Canada, Australia, Tasmania and India. You can find the full set of pictures at <http://meyen.org/MarkMeyen/home.asp>.

This summer Michael moved back over to Chapel Hill and entered grad school at the University of North Carolina (UNC) to work full time on a masters in Recreation Administration. He has a work-study position with the university and is working locally with the YMCA. He's still courting Rachel Vogelpohl whom we introduced in last year's Christmas letter. We had the pleasure of meeting her parents this summer when we all got together for a night at a Durham Bulls baseball game. We think Michael's got great taste in women.

Michelle and hubby, Ross have settled into their new home in Apex, NC and we enjoy having them near by. She's working with Cotton, Inc. and Ross doing very well at CISCO Systems. They both seem very content in their jobs. This will be Michelle's first time to host the family for Christmas and we are looking forward to that really special day. We couldn't be more proud of all our children and are very blessed to have them all so close by.

In September, Mark was attending a computer class in Northern Virginia on the 11th when the Pentagon was hit. At the end of the week he found his flight home from Dulles had been canceled so he just held onto his rental car and drove home.

Mark's dad suffered a broken hip in June while here visiting to celebrate his 81st birthday. After 6 weeks of rehab here in Raleigh we transferred him back to a facility near his home in Virginia so mother could have an easier time of it. He finally went "Home" in October. He had barely been home a month when his health took a really bad turn the day before Thanksgiving. He died on November 29th from congestive heart failure. We had a nice memorial service on December 5th and he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Dec. 13th with full military honors. He was well respected by everyone in his community and we were amazed at the turnout of friends and family. Grandpa Meyen is survived by Mark's mom, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Plans for next year include an 11-night cruise in April to the Caribbean aboard Celebrity Cruise Line's newest ship the Summit. Stops will include Ft Lauderdale, Key West, Cozumel, Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, Colon, Panama, Cartagena, Columbia, Oranjestad, Aruba and Georgetown, Grand Cayman.

As always, we hope this finds you and yours enjoying good health, prosperity and God's gift of salvation this Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Mark & Ann

2305 Filigree Court

Raleigh, NC 27614-8333

(919)870-7251 (919)870-1442(Fax)

Home pages: <http://www.meyen.org>

email:

Mark - MarkMeyen@meyen.org

Ann - MomMeyen@nc.rr.com