

2008 Christmas News

Christmas greetings from our growing family. Newsworthy events here:

Jan. We feel the call to bring home an orphan from far away. We start the paperwork to adopt a 15-year old boy from an orphanage in the Ukraine.

Mar A generous gift sends Ronda and Art flying to Loma Linda to visit David and Elissa. We squeal with joy when they announce a new baby on the way. Hannah goes on a mission trip to the Honduran island of Helene. Taylor and Caleb are baptized at our church. Sierra falls off the zip line and breaks her collar bone.

Apr Rylee learns to write her name. Ronda paints the rumpus room. Art takes the five youngest children to visit grandparents in Montana. Theron draws faces.

June Bethani flies to Wisconsin for a summer at Camp Wakonda. We mourn the passing of dear Aunt Verlene White.

July Ronda gathers her ample army of slave labor and together they pick 100 pounds of strawberries in one hour. We camp at Lost Lake along with Steve and Suzann Rose and their family.

Aug Bethani flies to Honduras for a school year as a Student Missionary. Brenden starts his second year at Montana State University. We mourn the passing of our beloved Uncle Harry. We welcome 17-year old Tracey to our family. Tracey is a Chinese exchange student attending PAA with Sierra and Hannah. At last the adoption paperwork moves forward. Ronda and Art fly to the Ukraine on Aug 26.

Sep Many kind friends help care for our children while we are in the Ukraine. Sierra and Hannah do heroic mothering. Taylor starts 8th grade at TVJA. Ronda and I meet our new son Ian and his great-grandmother. There are tears of goodbye and tears of happiness. Ronda flies home after the court date. David and Elissa

present us with our first grandchild (Sep 26)! Mossen James Green

Oct Art and Ian fly home on Oct 5th, welcomed with joy at the airport. Ronda flies to Loma Linda and helps care for little Mossen. Hannah turns 16 and gets her drivers license.

Nov Caleb makes big advances on his violin. Willa turns 9 with many birthday celebrations. We enjoy Thanksgiving with Grandpa Frank and Grandma Lauretta and many other family members.

Wrap-up: Our adoption of Ian was final and our new grandson arrived on the same day! We are so blessed by both boys. Ian is making huge adjustments and fitting into our family much better than we had hoped. Mossen will soon be learning names of his many uncles and aunts. How blessed we are!

Merry Christmas!

With Love from all of us: Art & Ronda, David & Elissa, Brenden, Bethani, Sierra (18), Hannah (16), Ian (16), Taylor (14), Caleb (12), Theron (11), Willa (9), Rylee (4), Mossen (2 months)

Favorite Books of 2008

Children's Read-aloud: Little House in the Big Woods by Wilder

Art: Wormwood Forest by Mycio

Ronda: Do Hard Things by Harris

David: Lone Survivor by Luttrell

Elissa: Deception by Alcorn

Bethani: The Curate of Glaston by MacDonald and Divine Nobodies by Palmer

Sierra: Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Bronte

Hannah: Saving Levi by Bentley

Taylor: Kingdom's Edge by Black

Caleb: Where the Red Fern Grows by Rawls

Theron: Adventures of Chatterer the Red Squirrel by Burgess

Willa: Baby Island by Brink



December 20, 2008

Left to Right:

Mossen Green, Elissa Green, David Green, Ronda, Sierra, Caleb, Ian, Willa, Theron, Bethani, Rylee, Hannah, Art, Taylor, Tracey (exchange student from Shanghi), Brenden (inset)