

Rockrohr Christmas Greetings 2011

Dear Family and Friends,

The changes in our family life did not slow down this year! Paul graduated college and started seminary studies. Jim graduated from U.S. Marines Officer Candidates School and soon will complete college. Rebecca has continued her Deaconess training with many interesting trips.

Ted keeps growing and learning. Deborah and Carl accepted calls to be missionaries in South Africa, and will soon move there with Ted.

In all these events and activities we rejoice that Jesus Christ remains our anchor. The Christmas readings from the Scripture remind us year in and year out that our Heavenly Father does not want sin, evil and death to overcome the world, but rather desires the world to have life in Jesus Christ.

TED

Ted is in the 7th grade this year. He keeps busy with school, sports, reading and spending time with siblings and friends. Since Mom and Dad have been away a lot the last half of the year on missionary orientation, fund-raising trips and meetings in South Africa he has spent quite a bit of time staying with grandparents and siblings (summer months) and with friends from school (school months). In 2012 Ted will move from seventh grade at Concordia Lutheran Grade School in Redford, Michigan to seventh

grade at Waterkloof House Preparatory School in Pretoria, South Africa.

REBECCA

Rebecca is fully engaged in her deaconess studies at Concordia University Chicago. She is in her sophomore year. She also is studying piano, a minor in non-profit business

management, and works part-time. She was able to go as a deaconess student to the Concordia Deaconess Conference meeting in June at Seward, Nebraska with Deborah. This fall she also took a weekend field trip to see

historical deaconess sites near Pittsburgh and attended a student mission festival in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

JAMES

James plans to graduate from Concordia University Wisconsin with a B.A. in history in December 2011. He continues to prepare to receive a commission and training as a U.S. Marines Officer in Summer or Fall 2012. The intake of new officers into the Marines is delaying quite a bit, so he plans to work after graduation until he starts with the Marines fulltime. He hopes to train to fly for the Marines. A six week long Officer Candidates School (OCS) at the Marine base in Quantico, Virginia was his big summer activity. He did very well in OCS and was given the rank of Candidate Platoon Sergeant in his OCS Platoon and also achieved perfect 300 scores in his Physical Fitness Tests.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

PAUL

Paul graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in May and also started his first year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in September. He was not overwhelmed and did well in his first quarter of studies, and that is always a good sign when starting up graduate school! His field work congregation is Clear Lake Lutheran Church. He also is playing basketball for the seminary, which is coached (player/coach) by fellow seminary student Josh Haller, who graduated from Westland Lutheran High School the same year as Paul! Paul never played basketball before in high school or college, but is enjoying the fellowship and exercise.

DEBORAH

As the children have had many transitions this year, so do the parents! Deborah ended her part-time deaconess work as a director of music for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, Michigan in June and began as a full-time deaconess missionary in July. Her formal title is "Director of Diaconal Studies" for Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Pretoria, South Africa. Her work is to start up a new residential deaconess training program for the seminary. This is a very exciting call since she is the first full-time deaconess missionary ever sent in the history of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod with the specific task to train new deaconesses in another country. She has done some curriculum planning for the new program and also traveled in late October to South Africa for some meetings, but the majority of time in the last half of 2011 has been preparing to move to South Africa and raising funds for the work.

Deborah also reached a personal and professional milestone by finishing her coursework and becoming "All But Dissertation"

in her Doctor of Education studies at Regent University. Her program is "Higher Education Leadership and Management" which has become invaluable preparation for her new call as the Director of Diaconal Studies. She continues to work on her dissertation.

CARL

Carl finished his work as Assistant Professor at Concordia University Ann Arbor in June, and also started full-time with LCMS World Mission in July. Besides activities in preparing for the move and fund-raising he traveled to South Africa and Ghana in September for several meetings. His main responsibility will be to teach the seminary student at LTS. In that work he also has tasks as the Secretary for the "Supervisory Board" which is a group of instructors from LTS and the University of Pretoria which oversee a new accreditation agreement between the seminary and the university. Carl has also kept busy with website work for www.rockrohr.net and www.lts.org.za

THE MISSION WORK

Paul, James and Rebecca will remain in the U.S. and pursue their various callings. Carl, Deborah and Ted have new adventures ahead of them in South Africa. We encourage you to receive our regular missionary newsletter, keep up with us on rockrohr.net and continue serving the Lord Jesus in your own family!

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Carl, Deborah, Paul, James, Rebecca and Ted