

December 2011

Dear friends,

As is the case every year, this past year 2011 has been a time of blessings, growth and new challenges. Above all, we thank God for continued good health for all the members of our family and for providing us with all that is necessary to work and study.

Our daughter Elizabeth and her husband Matt made the biggest move of the year, leaving Columbus, Ohio in August for Elizabeth to begin a PhD program in Statistics Education at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. When Matt informed his boss at his engineering job in Columbus that he would be moving, his boss immediately surprised him by asking him if he would be willing to continue to work with the company from home in Minneapolis. Thus Matt did not have to go through the trials of looking for a new job, and everything went very smoothly for them.

Our daughter Monica Julie finished her sophomore year at Augsburg College in May, and her return there for the Fall Semester meant that she was now just down the road from her sister, which was wonderful for both. Over the summer, Monica did the necessary internship for her double major in Sociology and Women's Studies at the Augsburg Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, about an hour-and-a-half south of Mexico City. Monica helped organize and lead some of the groups that do educational immersion programs there, and was also able to spend some time with us in Mexico City. She just got word that she made the Dean's List for the third straight semester. At the end of January, she will be heading to Amsterdam in the Netherlands to do a semester of study abroad there.

Alicia continued to teach throughout the year. Up through September, this involved part-time English teaching in a high school program. This also allowed her to spend more time helping to take care of her mother, who turned 96 in June. In September, she accepted a full-time position teaching first-grade in English at an elementary school. That has meant keeping very busy, of course, but things have gone well.

In addition to his normal teaching duties at the Theological Community of Mexico and Augsburg Lutheran Seminary, David was asked to serve as coordinator for the Seminary's new online course program. This kept him extremely busy throughout the year, since he had never been involved with online courses before. However, the courses were able to start in June and in general all has gone well; it has been a tremendous learning experience. The program has had students not only from Mexico but from about 10 other Latin American countries, as well as Spain and France. Because a good foundation has been laid for the program, it will no doubt continue to grow and expand in the coming years. David also spent 6 months helping San Pedro Lutheran Church in Mexico City develop their worship program, and in August was chosen to serve as Chair of the Steering Committee of the ELCA Association of Teaching Theologians. All of this has kept him busy.

The five of us were able to spend Christmas together this year in Mexico City and to take a short trip to Guanajuato, where we took the above photo. We pray that your New Year be filled with God's richest blessings and we look forward to seeing many of you and hearing from you in 2012!



*The Brondos family*