

# CHRISTMAS 2011

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## Christmas Greetings from the Goldsby Family!

How can you tell when you are ready for Christmas? There are so many things we do: family events, carols, worship services, decorating, giving presents, etc. What about our hearts? Your "heart soil" is where God plants his powerful seeds of grace. Submit yourself to the Spirit of God who tills, your heart into a state of true humility. Then we are ready to genuinely receive Jesus Christ and Christmas.

Gene and Marilyn & Family

God has done so much in my life this past year. I have seen his faithfulness in my job and in my relationships. I have been living with my sister, Kerstin, on the west side of Minneapolis. We have enjoyed making the apartment our own. God came through big this year with a full time kindergarten position for me. I am thankful for his generosity and his ability to work through me. Another wonderful gift from God has been getting to know my fiancé, Dave. He is a hard working engineer who deeply loves the Lord and his family. Hard to believe that we were just getting to know each other over eHarmony a year ago, and now we are planning our wedding on July 14th! I am excited to see what God has in store for us this coming year.

~Lisa



I am finishing my final year at Bethel University and love serving as a resident assistant for upper class students.

This past spring, I studied abroad in Guatemala taking Spanish language classes and working in microfinance for my majors in Spanish and Business. God revealed himself to me in powerful ways through my host family, friends, and professors in Guatemala.

I look forward to new opportunities after graduation in May, but will miss the great community at Bethel University. I have enjoyed living in the Twin Cities these four years with my sisters and "brothers", getting together for birthdays, Cara's marathon, and game nights.

~Chris





Sergio and I are spending Christmas and New Years in Colombia visiting Sergio's family. Richfield Dual Language School is where I teach (2<sup>nd</sup> year). I am teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and on the leadership team with a great, mentoring principal. I host a group monthly with other women who are married to Latin men. Biking to work when weather permits and running (I ran the Twin Cities Marathon in October) are some of my favorite things.

Sergio is teaching Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for kids at Gracie Barra Twin Cities. His mother came to visit us in September. Sergio substitute teaches for the public schools in the Twin Cities. He and I were nannies for a family during the summer: skiing, biking, swimming, fishing. Sergio won a gold medal in a Jiu-Jitsu competition in October.

~ Cara and Sergio

I am working at General Mills as a project manager within the "Special Pack" division (contractor). It is an interesting mix of logistics, promotions, marketing, and analytics but ultimately my group is responsible for the displays seen in grocery stores. Evidently this isn't the first time I have promoted General Mills, (see picture of me at age 3 to the right).

This past year I have been involved in a small group Bible Study. We volunteered to help "grill out" at one of the community outreaches and did such a good job we were asked back to help with the church picnic!

I have enjoyed hosting friends and family in our (Lisa and my) apartment in Minneapolis. We have a great view of the skyline and I do a bit of caretaking for the two apartment buildings. This past summer and fall I went on several adventures exploring this "City of Lakes".

~Kerstin



I continue to enjoy working four to five days per week at Froedtert Hospital admitting and recovering patients.

In March, Gene and I had a great time attending a Christian conference in Louisiana as well as seeing plantations, the battlefield of the war of 1812, a steamboat ride down the Mississippi and eating wonderful southern seafood. We traveled north in May with friends to Ontario, Canada for a week of FUN fishing, catching a 23-inch Walleye and 34-inch Northern among the many other fish. Cara, Sergio, Christopher, Gene and I headed for the BWCA for 4 days in August before meeting Kerstin, Lisa and Dave at some friends cabin for boating, more fishing and family time together.

At our church, I am co-teaching S.S. preschool, helping facilitate new member classes, and just finished leading a small group of ten women in a Bible study about the Holy Spirit/fruits of the Spirit. I still love to bike, swim and run.

Gene is thankful for all his real estate clients and the many opportunities to minister in the market place. We both enjoyed visiting relatives in Washington. He is on staff at our church and oversees outreach, discipleship and missions.

~Marilyn and Gene