



It is the day after Thanksgiving, and we are feeling especially thankful for this year. We thought that this is a great time to tell you why.

We are deeply thankful for you, our friends and family, for your encouragement and support in our ministry. We could not do it without you. We enjoy keeping in touch with you, electronically and in person. Come by to visit whenever you are in Illinois. And if you are not in the neighborhood, well, you just have to find a way to get here! Our guest room is ready.

Our deepest thanks go to God Himself, for giving us far more than we could ever ask or think. The gift we celebrate at Christmas gives meaning to all the other things, and it is God who "richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:17). Almost two thousand years ago, the Baby of Bethlehem purchased a gift that He offers to all humankind, with no strings attached. Lois and I have the privilege of sharing that good news with the people we meet wherever we are in the world..

Lois is also very grateful that she achieved a significant milestone, when she took and passed the national board certification exam on October 14. She is now a Certified Wound Specialist. This is a professional recognition of her skill and study in this medical specialty area. She is working full time for American Medical Technologies as a Wound Care Educator, serving about 20 long-term care facilities in the western suburbs of Chicago. This is a demanding position, one that the Lord clearly designed for her to use her gifts.

Chris also contributed our family's ongoing educational trajectory, as he has graduated from his year-long course work, completed an eight-month practical internship, and passed all of the state board exams to become a paramedic. He is now working at this new level of responsibility with the same ambulance company, AMR, where he has worked since returning from Venezuela in 2001. He is also pursuing some personal goals, but those should probably be announced in another venue than a letter from his parents. You can check our website for that information as soon as it becomes available.

Kevin and Bridget are nearing completion of Kevin's study at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he will graduate with an MA in Religion in July of 2007. This marks another step along their path toward long-term ministry, possibly returning to Gilligan's Island. **Savannah and Caleb** are a joy to their grandparents, though we don't see them as often as we'd wish. We are thankful for Skype, webcams and digital photographs to augment our investment in the phone company.

I, (**Roger**) continue to be challenged and stimulated by my work as Coordinator for the LifeLearner Network, a tool to help our workers around the world collaborate and learn intentionally, as they strive to become more effective in their work. I love the team of people I work with in the TEAM office, and we are excited about what we are able to accomplish together.

One major project we are working on at the Centre for Lifelong Learning is an one-year pilot project for Leadership Development. In September, we met in Singapore with 16 leaders and potential leaders from five different regions in Asia, to launch a year-long collaborative learning opportunity. During the year, these men and women are studying and trying a variety of practical applications, and using the LifeLearner Network to interact online about what works and what doesn't. Topics include the leader as coach, cross-cultural impact of leadership, teambuilding, and character implications for leaders. You can find out more on our website, www.luceleafnotebook.com.

Love,
Roger and Lois



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