

# Merry Christmas 2009

Our year started with Aimée's 11th birthday and then Alex and Aimée had another Black Belts for Christ tournament in Jacksonville.

In March we had a week to visit with our nieces and nephew who came to Orlando during spring break. Mindy came from Rhode Island (engineering school), Julie came from Virginia (nursing school) and Erik Came from California (UC San Diego). We went to a water park together, toured Campus Crusade for Christ and did projects at Nan's parents' house. A few weeks later we also had a brief but treasured visit with Nan's brother Ned, Lynn and Sarah.

The summer brought Alex's first time behind the wheel as a student 'learner's permit' driver. It also brought Aimée's first broken bones (two toes – during martial arts practice) and Alex's 'purple belt'. Aimée earned her purple belt 6 weeks later after her foot healed.

August brought joy and sadness. The joy came with our niece Rebekah's wedding in Texas to Daniel McMenamin. Because Ned couldn't travel they brought the wedding to him. Ned had a week to give his daughter away; time that was truly a gift from God. The sadness (for us) came 9 days later when Ned took his last breath and entered the presence of the Lord – free at last from pain! Lynn, his wife, was amazing throughout all of this and she is a testimony to us of God's grace through such pain.

In September Irv and Aimée attended Dan and Rebekah's wedding celebration (on what was to be the original wedding date). Aimée was able to be part of the wedding ceremony by reciting Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. While they were in California, Irv was able to do some projects for his mom and dad. They even had a chance to hike in Yosemite National Park (Irv's favorite place to hike) with Aimée's cousin Julie.

Nan's mom was also in the hospital at Thanksgiving for pneumonia and an unplanned surgery. But she has come through with flying colors (!) and should be out of the hospital in a few days.

Throughout the year, Irv's biggest project has been the short film "My Last Day on Earth" – a 10-minute retelling of the crucifixion of Jesus. The process of storyboarding, finding a production company and an animation studio in Japan culminated in a signed contract in December. Whew! This should mean this first ever high-quality anime film on the crucifixion should be ready next summer!

For all this year has brought, we are more grateful than ever for you, our family and God's many blessings. Thank you so much for your love and prayers for us and our family. We appreciate you!

In His Service,  
Irv & Nan

