

the PETERSEN *family*

2 0 0 8 C H R I S T M A S L E T T E R

Merry Christmas. Well, it's that time again – overcrowded everything, too much food, and yes the annual Petersen video letter. Love it or loathe it, here it is. A little update since last year.

Justice turned 3 in October. He likes trucks, trains, music, scooping and dumping, swimming (ocean, pool, tub – wherever there is water), and playing at the park. He is full of questions -- and “what for?” is his favorite. One day I counted and in only 30 minutes he asked it over 100 times. When I asked Justice who his friends are he said “A, 9, 10, 11” – we are working on his letters and numbers. Apparently I need to work a little harder with him. He is excited about looking for a preschool. He is shy to meet, but quickly crazies up. Sometime I wonder how he doesn't fall over from exhaustion – I certainly want to.

For me . . . My favorite time of each day is at night when Justice is still and we read books. After we read together we touch our heads together he lays on his side and puts his arm on my shoulder and I say “You are special”. He has started saying “say me more” and I go on and tell him things I like about him. His smile is huge. Justice and I have really liked making friends with some of our neighbors from the retirement home next door and neighbors at the park near our house. Somehow taking care of Justice and Guinn and helping Darin with his many projects can take up most of my day.

Honestly, we really didn't think Guinn would live this long. She will be 88 in February, and she really is in excellent health. She is still playful, although definitely initiates less conversation and wit. She continues to go to a program during the week with peers and staff who love her well. Guinn's plan is to live to 100. Doing the math that would make me closing in on 50! And Justice almost ready to drive.

On our trip this summer we made a stop in Woodland Park, Colorado for a couple days to visit her brother, Dick and his wife Roberta. The resemblance in personality and physical features were amazing. It was fun to connect with a piece of Guinn's past. The only reason we have been able to stay sane in caring for each other is the kindness of our friend Phyllis who has gifted us countless hours of Guinn-sitting when the other 3 of us travel.

If happiness is measured by the pace at which you run, Darin is a very happy man. He gets a lot of enjoyment and energy from being involved in a lot of great things. He gives much of his time to a couple of non-profits, Relational Tithe and The Simple Way, and a family foundation in the Bay Area.

Travel continues to be a great love for Darin. He gets out to Philadelphia about every 6 weeks. This year he had the chance to visit our friend Manuel, in Ghana, Africa. Justice, Darin and I also took a couple weeks to travel to Paris and Cyprus over Thanksgiving. I think he is a brilliant man and is a really great gift to many people, including our family. Darin enjoys doughnut and recycling Saturdays with Justice. He is a great husband and father, and a great whatever he is to Guinn.

We know that 2008 has been full of a lot of celebration and a lot of pain for many of you. Our hope is that we can continue to be part of each other's lives through it all. Here's to doing 2009 together.

With much love from our family to yours – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

