

Advent 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

When 2010 first appeared on the horizon, Gene and I never anticipated all the ways our lives would change in the following months. After shoveling one of the heaviest snowfalls in years, Gene injured his back in late December. There followed six months of intensive treatment, including doctors, MRIs and physical therapy. A stay in the hospital in May at last revealed that he had a staph infection in his spinal cord. The cure required making daily visits to the hospital for infusions of high-dose antibiotics plus wearing a full back brace for three months. How thankful we are that he is now fully recovered!

Through all the pain, Gene managed to teach History of Math at Messiah College. It was a challenge, but with the help of Skype he was even able to teach the class from his bed on his two worst days. All was not misery: While he was laid low, he managed to catch up on the first five seasons of *Lost*.

Because of Gene's illness, I spent most of those six months caring for him. The upside is that, being home, I was able to spend more time writing. By October I had signed a publisher's contract for my sixth non-fiction book and four more contracts with *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, and I also drafted more than half of my first novel.

Our children provided more joyful news in 2010. Just four days after last Christmas, Prisca and Anthony welcomed their son Elliott Chase DeRosa. Their oldest, Josiah (5), is now in kindergarten, and their second, Anderson (3), began preschool, so Prisca has been able to have 1-on-1 time with Elliott. Anthony took a new job with Intelesys Corp but is still doing computer engineering.

In January, Tim and Elizabeth were relieved to see the adoption papers finalized for their son Simeon. He has brought lots of life to their home and sends regular tweets about his daily exploits, with a little help from his dad and mom. Elizabeth continues as cataloging librarian at the Frisco, TX, public library. This summer she oversaw the immense task of RFID-encoding 145,000 books.

And John and Kelly? They are still teaching in public schools and performing juggling feats at international juggling festivals. John, with all the energy of youth, has also begun an MA program in mathematics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where Anthony got his MA.

So even though our year got off to a rough start, we end it now as we always do, praising God for His faithful care for us and those we love. We hope you too will rejoice with us during the holidays as we remember the birth of Jesus, God's son.

Love,

Emily, and for Gene

A collection of links to family photos from 2010 and some thoughts from Gene about listening prayer are found on Gene's blog: <http://www.GeneBChase.com/Aftermath/?p=212>