

December 2013

Dear family and friends,

Greetings from Michigan on a Sunday when some five hundred churches in this area have canceled some or all their services because of the snow and ice. It's great to be able to see everything white and sparkling, but not if we have to venture out and drive anywhere.

We went to Atlanta this year to visit family and especially to celebrate Jeanette's brother's 70th birthday. Then we also happened to be at the Martin Luther King Visitor Center and at a brief "civil" memorial gathering at the original Ebenezer Baptist Church building (where Rev. King was the minister, but now administered by the National Parks Service) on the anniversary of his assassination. This provided us with our moment of fame for the year: our family members caught a glimpse of us on the evening TV news, and our photo was on the front page of the Metro section of the main Atlanta newspaper the next morning. We would love to include the photo, but it is copyrighted, so here is the link: <http://www.ajc.com/photo/news/photos/ajc-photos-week-march-30-april-5-2013/pqf3b/>

Jonathan finished the first year of his Master's degree in Linguistics at the University of Bordeaux, France, but decided not to continue with that program. He was hired by a language school to teach English, and also had some private students and did a little translation work. He will make a quick trip back to the US in January to visit us again before leaving France in February for Melbourne, Australia, where he has been accepted to Monash University for a three-semester Master's degree program in translation and interpretation. His Australian citizenship gives him some significant financial benefits.

We continue to enjoy having family in town, but this will be their last year here, as Angel will graduate in May. It is also Jeanette's last year working at the Seminary with Master of Theology students (mostly from overseas). Alan has audited some courses at Western Seminary this year, having discovered that, as a staff spouse, he can do so free of charge.

May you have a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.
Jeanette and Alan

