

# Adel-gram Too!

## A Second Generation's CHRISTmas Greeting



Dear Loved Ones,

OK...Here's the deal....I am very, very, very busy right now. It is Nutcracker week, and that involves rehearsals everyday and performances this coming weekend. I haven't wrapped one present or baked a single cookie. I have two parties this weekend and babysitters to arrange. We have not had our annual family picture made yet. My house is messy. My freezer consists of a pound of ground beef, a frozen pizza, four popsicles and about a cup of corn. Why am I telling you this? Well, because I want pity, of course! That, and I want you to understand why you are holding a very different kind of Christmas letter in your hands (and you thought last year's that was written in the taekwondo studio was different!). In order to save some time in writing this, I made up a questionnaire and had the family members fill it out or dictate answers to me. I apologize if this seems more impersonal than my usual newsy letters, but bear with me here. This could be fun, and you just might learn something.

### **Family Member #1**    **Name:** Damon



**Age:** Just turned 37

**Occupation:** Front Desk Administrator for STAR Physical Therapy

**Last book you read and/or currently reading:** "The Servant" by James Hunter. This was a really good, compelling book for me. It inspired me to continue to pursue a life as a servant leader."

**Favorite Christmas movie:** "It's a Wonderful Life"

**What you've learned and/or how you've changed this year:** "I started a new job in May. With over 60 locations in TN, KY and IN, I've so enjoyed seeing new places and meeting new people. As I creep towards 40, I continue to marvel at the fragility and brevity of life! This reality, coupled with the thought of eternity, haunts me...in a good / healthy sort of way."

**Favorite memories of 2006:** "Definitely our 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip to Highlands, NC. Everything about it was great...the food, the scenery, the quiet, the company. Also the hiking trips we've gone on as a family or just me and the kids. We've seen some amazing scenery and enjoyed real quality time together. I really want to do this more."

**One item on your Christmas wish list:** "Nikon D80 digital camera. I'm taking up a collection. If you want to give, visit our website [www.adelgren.com](http://www.adelgren.com). I'm sorry...donations are not tax deductible."

**What you want to be when you grow up:** "A freelance photographer and professional speaker. Getting paid to talk....that would be nice!"

**How can people pray for you this coming year:** "That I would love the Lord with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and that I would love my neighbor as myself."

### **Family Member #2**    **Name:** Kellie



**Age:** "I recently celebrated my 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 29."

**Occupation:** "Homeschool mom and domestic engineer."

**Last book read and or currently reading:** "I'm currently reading East of Eden by John Steinbeck. It's a long book, so it's going kind of slow since I don't have that much time to read, but I like it a lot. He really knows how to build a character. I'm finding the biblical allegory of the story interesting too."

**Favorite Christmas movie:** "Hands down, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! This was a tv movie back in the 80s, starring Loretta Swit as the director of a pageant starring the town's delinquent kids."

**What you've learned and/or how you've changed this year:** "1. That I need approximately 2.36 hours more in most of my days to get everything done. 2. That I can lose weight if I count my Weight Watcher points to the fraction and keep doing this....well...forever! 3. That blogging is fun! (and by the way, please visit my blog at [www.homeschoolblogger.com/kellieann](http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/kellieann) It's not all about homeschooling either!) 4. That my kids are growing up waaaaay too fast and that I need to slow down and treasure the moments!"

**Favorite memories of 2006:** "Our Disney World trip in February with my mom and my sister's family, the anniversary trip that was already mentioned and getting to see the American Idol Live concert in Columbus, OH (don't ask why we drove all the way there to see it...it's a long story)."

**One item on your Christmas wish list:** "Bubble bath....I love a good soak."

**What you want to be when you grow up:** "A writer of some sort or a professional scrapbooker or a book store owner."

**How can people pray for you this year:** "That I would be a Proverbs 31 woman consistently, that the Lord would give me direction and purpose in my writing/blogging, and that the Chicago Bears would go to and win the upcoming Super Bowl. (How I would love to see Brian Urlacher sack the dickens out of Peyton Manning!!)"

### **Family Member #3**



**Name:** Annaleigh

**Age:** 10 and 3months

**Grade and favorite subject:** 5<sup>th</sup>; science and reading

**Last book read and/or currently reading:** "I'm on the second chapter of Eragon, so I can't say much about that yet. I just finished Fairest by Gail Carson Levine. I read it in about 3 days. She's my favorite author, and I really liked it. I'm also reading Mission to Cathay for school. It's the true story about the first Western missionary that went to China."

**Favorite Christmas movie:** Elf

**Favorite memories of 2006:** "Going to Disney World, getting my ears pierced (finally!!!) when I turned 10, and seeing Pirates of the Carribean: Dead Man's Chest in the theater."

**What you have learned or how you have changed this year:** "I learned to swim really well over the summer. I changed ballet studios to Dance Emmanuel, which is Christian, and now I'm taking 4 hours of classes a week, including a pre-pointe class. I've been taking care of babies and kids more, so hopefully I can start babysitting in a few years....or maybe Mom will have another baby. I've learned a lot about the Eastern Hemisphere and the 10-40 window in school."

**One item on your Christmas wish list:** "A puppy!"

**What you want to be when you grow up:** "A missionary doctor to somewhere in Africa."

**How can people pray for you this year:** "That I would do my best in school and dance and that I would have consistency in my quiet time with God."

### **Family Member #4**



**Name:** Harrison

**Age:** 6.5

**Grade and favorite subject:** 1<sup>st</sup>; math and science

**Last book read and/or currently reading:** "The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson. I like this book because it's interesting to know about poor people who are homeless. I hope they can get a house before the book's over. I'm also reading I Can Read It: Book 2 by myself. It's not that exciting."

**Favorite Christmas movie:** Frosty the Snowman

**Favorite memories of 2006:** "Becoming a Sr. Red belt in taekwondo, winning medals at three tournaments, turning six and having a Laser Chase party, getting my first pocketknife, and hiking with my family."

**What you've learned or how you've changed this year:** "I've learned a lot in taekwondo and have gone from green belt to senior red this year. I became a Christian. I learned how

to read pretty well. I learned how plants grow and how to measure with a ruler.”

**One item on your Christmas wish list:** “A baby brother, or I guess another sister would be ok too. I also want Lego Star Wars II computer game.”

**What you want to be when you grow up:** “A drummer and a taekwondo instructor.”

**How can people pray for you this year:** “I’m testing for my black belt in January, that I’d grow up ‘good’, that I would learn more in church, and I would not have a bad temper.”

### Pet #1



**Name:** Baxter

**Age:** “16, so they say, but no one knows for sure, and I’m not telling.”

**Weight:** “23 lbs., but I’m big-boned.”

**Favorite activity:** “Sleeping”

**Favorite toy:** “What’s that?”

**Favorite memory:** “What’s that?”

**Upcoming changes:** “I’m 112 years old in cat years....do you honestly expect me to comment on that?!”

**Favorite Christmas movie:** “Garfield’s Christmas”

**Item on your Christmas list:** “World peace. Now will you leave me alone and let me get back to sleep?”

### Pet #2



**Name:** Bridget

**Age:** “I’m turning 9 in January.”

**Weight:** “65 lbs. of pure, lean muscle.”

**Favorite activity:** “Drooling.”

**Favorite toy:** “Does Ripley count?”

**Favorite memory:** “The time when an entire chicken breast fell on the floor.”

**Upcoming changes:** “Ummm...I hope it’s not that the girl really is getting a puppy!”

**Favorite Christmas movie:** “The Twelve Dogs of Christmas...the seven boxers boxing were superb!”

**Item on your Christmas list:** Undivided attention

### Pet #3



**Name:** Ripley

**Age:** “I turned 4 in September.”

**Weight:** “17 lbs., which means I’m the fastest living thing in this household.”

**Favorite activity:** “Climbing is definitely at the ‘top’ of my list...hahaha, I’m so punny! I also enjoy snuggling, biting, stealing the fat cat’s food and hissing at the big, scary man. I like to stay busy.”

**Favorite toy:** “Milk jug lids...they are so slippery on the wood floors. My tail is a close second.”

**Favorite memory:** “Any time the big, scary man was not here, and, oh yes...the time I got locked in the attic was interesting. You wouldn’t believe what these people hang onto.”

**Upcoming changes:** “Rumor has it that I’m going to go live with the woman they call ‘Mimi’ soon. She’s nice, doesn’t have a dog or a big, scary man, and I’ll still get to see my current family often. Life is grand! I’ll miss the fat cat’s food though...”

**Favorite Christmas movie:** “Santa Claws and The Cat Whole Stole Christmas. I auditioned to be an extra for that last one, but I was turned down because they already had too many orange tabbies. Ah, well...it’s probably for the best. The director was a big, scary man.”

**Item on your Christmas list:** “Tens and twenties. I’m really a simple cat.”

**Pet(s) #4**

**Name:** The fish....Ha!!! Just kidding....everyone knows that fish can't talk!

Well, there you have it...the Adalgrens in black and white. I think I saved a grand total of about 45 minutes by doing the letter this way. It might have been 50 if Ripley had been less chatty.

On a serious note, please know that despite how busy we all are this time of year that we care about you! I shared a lot of miscellaneous or just silly things about us, but the prayer requests are REAL and VALID (well, ok...maybe not mine about the Bears. It's real, but probably not valid. Just pray as you're led...). Drop us a line some time, either penned or cyber, and let us know how you're doing and how we can pray for you. That is one of our greatest callings: to support and encourage one another until He comes again (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Merry CHRISTmas!!!!

In His love,  
The Adalgren family