

# Adel-gram...too! 1997

## Our Christmas Letter

A very merry Christmas to all of our loved ones near and far! I can hardly fathom that it was just a year ago that I sat down to pen last year's letter. But as I look at pictures of Annaleigh's first Christmas, I remember how we had to prop her up with pillows just so that she could maintain a sitting position. I look at her darling little Christmas outfit, which would now be inches too short. I survey our house this Christmas, toys strewn end to end, bows ripped off packages numerous times, a frequently pillaged magazine rack, and Annaleigh herself in the middle of it all, clutching the end of thirty foot long toilet paper trail. Perhaps she overheard me singing "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," or maybe she simply thought that the tree needed more garland. Ah, well, whatever the case, I'm acutely reminded that it has been a year!

I suppose that our biggest news this year is Damon's new job. Damon through a series of divinely orchestrated circumstances, is now working for the Carolina Health Group, a subsidiary of Columbia HCA. For those of you familiar with Charleston, this is part of the Trident Health System. Right now he is still somewhat in the training phase of becoming a consultant for their computer software, MEDIC, which is currently used for billing purposes in practices throughout North and South Carolina and Georgia. He travels frequently but not for long periods of time. Overall, he enjoys his job and team of fellow employees immensely. Other than the rigors of working long hours, five days a week, Damon is still heading up the men's ministry at our church, as well as teaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class. He loves to spend time with Annaleigh, especially when she snuggles up under his chin and calls him "Dada."

Apart from the tidbits I've already shared, Annaleigh is a thriving fifteen month old with personality to spare. Our bubbly little redhead never fails to attract attention with her toothy grins, crinkly brown eyes, movie star waves and vivacious "Hi!" to everyone we meet. She loves baby dolls, as well as real babies, dogs, bath time, books and ice cream, but above all else, her favorite pastime, is tumbling around the house with our cat Baxter, who still outweighs her by three pounds. He doesn't mind the roughhousing a bit. In fact, he really seems to dote on Annaleigh (if a cat can dote).

As for myself, I am still enjoying mommihood on the home front. I substitute teach occasionally and attend MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) every other Tuesday. Both of these activities satisfy my desire to be out of the house some and to have conversation beyond one syllable words. Although even while working, eating lunch in the teachers' lounge, I have the overwhelming desire to cut up the other teachers' food for them or to tell a 6'1" sixteen year old young man "no-no" when he leaves his seat without permission.

As I bring this letter to a close, I feel compelled to tell you that I love Christmas! I love everything about it...the crisp reds and greens decorating my home, the smell of pine from our tree, candles in the windows, our beautiful manger scene lovingly hand painted by Grandma Adelgren. I even love crowded malls and wrapping presents! The reason I tell you all of this is to say that this year I love Christmas even more because for the first time I've read through the entire Bible...huh?!? I know many of you might be saying, "But Kellie, Christmas is only found in the Gospels!" Well, I must call you on that one friends, because as I near the end of this treasured book this season, I'm becoming increasingly aware that from beginning to end it all points, every word, to none other than Jesus, which to me is what Christmas is all about. So as I gaze at our manger scene, I not only think of small baby in a manger, but I'm reminded of Israel's rich past and God's unfailing love and mercy. I also think of that baby's blessed life, giving ministry, gruesome death, and glorious resurrection. Most importantly, I can rejoice in the baby's future and that I am miraculously included in it. It is our prayer that you will be also. So I leave you by saying, "Joy to the world!" He has come and is coming!

In anticipation,

The Adelgren family  
Damon, Kellie &  
Annaleigh