

December 1998

Just last week, our church service started with some beautiful pictures of galaxies and stars projected on the big screen in the auditorium while someone read Psalm 19:

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”*

The vastness of space is hard to grasp. A couple of years ago when I had the opportunity to sail to Hawaii, one of the things that most struck me was the night sky in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. With no lights to obscure the view (and having the good fortune to be out there during a meteor shower), I was completely amazed and awe-struck by the beauty of the sky. Even more amazing is that all this was made by the same person whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Speaking of Jesus, the apostle John said *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”* Jesus is the true “star of Christmas”.

This year for the Tilden’s has been pretty interesting. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Jessica and Katie are both in middle school this year. Our days of elementary school are over. It’s kind of sad as we close that chapter on our family.
- Mark’s business made it on the list of the “100 fastest growing Privately Held companies in Oregon” at number 51 on the list. They now have 16 people and are moving to larger office spaces downtown.
- The business also completed their highest profile project to date with the launch of the new American Airlines web site in June (check out [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)). This was the result of six months of intense effort and long hours for Mark and the rest of the team. The site and the company are getting lots of good press and new business is coming in faster than we can handle it as a result.
- This year was our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We had a nice weekend celebration at the coast, where Mark gave Roseanne a little booklet as an anniversary present. She wasn’t very excited about it either, until she realized that it was a brochure for the Caribbean cruise that we took (and enjoyed immensely) in November
- The family spent more time camping this year than we have in recent memory. It started with a weekend camp at Fort Stevens with friends from college. The next weekend was our church family camp, followed by a week of camping down the Oregon Coast, through the Oregon Caves and in Southern Oregon.
- The only problem with all this camping is that the girls have gotten so big that they couldn’t both sleep in the small beds in the camper anymore—another sign of their growing up. Jessica had to sleep (with the dog) in the small jump seat in the back of the truck. As a result, we ended up coming back from camping, selling the big truck and camper and buying a motorhome with a little more room. Daddy got a small truck to replace his “fire breathing” diesel. I still kind of miss that growling sound and black smoke in the morning when I start this little truck...
- Right after we returned from camping, Mark left for Dallas (again) and Roseanne’s sister came from Virginia. Roseanne, Erin, and all the kids went to Reedsport on the coast for Roseanne’s family reunion. Mark arrived back on Friday night and drove out that night to join the festivities. A grand time was had by all, with the styrofoam airplane flying contest off the back porch as one of the highlights of the weekend.

- Mark continues to serve on the board of our church and teach a college class, while Roseanne is involved in the drama team (she's at dress rehearsal right now for the Christmas program)
- The first phase of our building program at the church is nearing completion. We hope to be occupying the building by Easter. We really need the space with three services filled to capacity and classes meeting in every nook and cranny of our original building. Meanwhile, they continue to build hundreds of apartment units within walking distance of what was not that long ago a rural setting.
- Mark and Roseanne are involved in a small group Bible Study with three other couples that has been lots of fun. We often leave with sore cheeks from laughing so much.
- We celebrated Thanksgiving here with Mark's older sister's family (Nancy and John) and Mark's parents. It was a good time, though Mark's Mom has Alzheimer's disease, which is steadily robbing her of her memory and ability to function. The only comfort is in knowing that the Lord has not lost control and still loves her just as much as He did before. For everything she can't remember, she can still quote passages from the Bible. The kids are trying to help Dad, but he's 200 or more miles away from most of us, so we can't help as much as we'd like. You can pray for Dad in his 24 hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week job of caring for Mom.
- Roseanne is now caring for our neighbor's infant girl. Jessica and Katie have enjoyed having her in the house, but suddenly stopped begging for a baby brother or sister when they realized how much work was involved. Funny how that happens...

As you can see, we've been pretty busy this year. Still, with all the busyness and even with the sadness of Mark's mom's condition, we have so much to be thankful for. We are blessed with a healthy and happy family (for the most part), an excellent church with good friends, and a growing healthy business. It's hard not to be thankful.

We sincerely hope that this letter finds you all healthy and happy. Most of you are on our prayer list. If you're not, it's probably because we haven't heard from you in so long that we don't know what to pray for. There IS a solution to this problem—and now you can do it either the old fashion way (US Mail) or electronically. Mark and Roseanne both have email addresses (and the kids are getting them too...). Please write us ([markdt@sight-n-sound.com](mailto:markdt@sight-n-sound.com) or [roseanne@sight-n-sound.com](mailto:roseanne@sight-n-sound.com)) or better yet, drop by and say hello!

In the Love of Jesus,