



11 December 2004

Dear family and friends,

Debi and I achieved a few more milestones this year. We're not getting old, but we are maturing. Danni, our foreign exchange student, went back to Germany in July, and Candi started college in August. We are now empty nesters. While that is a significant milestone, the real highlight of the year was our first grandchild. Hunter Matthew Hackett was born on 31 August 2004 and weighed in at 9 pounds 6 ounces. We got an opportunity to visit Hunter and his parents, Aaron and Christina, at their house in San Antonio in October. Even Aunt Candi took advantage of her fall break to visit her new nephew. We are looking forward to their visit with us in Tennessee this Christmas. Danni will be visiting as well.



Candi is now a freshman in college. She is attending Tennessee State University, which is a historically black college. She gets a lottery scholarship from the state, and an academic scholarship from the university. The two scholarships pay for everything with a little spending money left over. Candi has enjoyed her first semester, and her grades are spectacular. She still comes home every weekend and is still active in the church. She continues to work with the local theater group, and is also participating in a play at the high school. With only one weeks notice, Candi jumped in to help the Carriage House Players this summer when the female lead in the play developed a medical problem.

Debi is still working at the high school. She is now working as an administrative assistant to the Vice Principal. Debi made all the costumes for the high school play. Debi got another vehicle this year. It is a 1981 Jeep Wagoneer that only had 35,000 original miles. Her father had inherited it from an elderly woman her mother helped care for. The Jeep looks really good, but we are still working through the mechanical problems of an under used 23-year-old vehicle. Debi has a new pet. Scooter is an 11-week-old Chihuahua puppy. Scooter follows Debi everywhere. Perhaps she should have named him Shadow.



Ron stayed busy with his job at SRS Technologies, and was invited to attend the company's annual meeting again this year. The security software he has been developing is now being Beta tested, and the company hopes to release the first version for sale early in the coming year. Ron speaks frequently at national conferences, and we took advantage of the opportunity and spent several days vacationing and visiting with some of Ron's relatives in Reno, Nevada. Ron's friend got him started playing the guitar again after a 25-year hiatus. Ron's old Gretsch electric guitar was in bad shape, but his friend was able to rebuild it. Ron also purchased a new Gibson ES-235 electric guitar and a Taylor NS-34CE nylon string guitar.

We hope you had a happy and prosperous year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Ron, Debi and Candi* 