

We hope you will enjoy...

December 1997

## *A Peek through the Window for Sights and Sounds at Our Homes*

29<sup>th</sup> Edition



2801 Canyon Valley Trail Plano, Texas [75075]

**If you have time for only a glance,** here is our family this fall.

Seated: Abigail, Benjamin, Howard, Sharron  
Standing: Jenny, Herb, Shirlene, Heather  
(Shari in Haiti)

**If you can linger longer,** here are a few of the year's events.

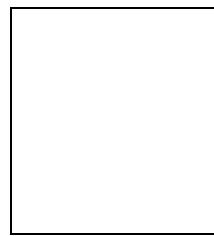
**The whole family** at home to celebrate in three days: Thanksgiving '96, Abigail's birthday, Christmas and New Year's Eve before Howard left December 1 for nine weeks in Japan and the kids left in a three-car caravan to Oklahoma City where they all lived at that time; Easter dinner in two sittings before four cars left again for Oklahoma City; everyone here to send Shari off to Haiti in August; rejoicing with Herb and Jenny when their hospital bill of \$12,000 was erased so they could go to

India two months later

**Howard** calling home on family conference calls to report that Tokyo looks just like New York City except he can't read the signs, needing to follow the "slipper rule" by wearing slippers in offices, finding Santa Clauses everywhere but no mangers or churches visible; working up to 107 out of 168 hours per week on a voice mail project for PHS (mini-cellular) phones, moderating conference calls for DSC to several states, Japan and England; taking digital pictures in Japan to put on his Web site; making Sunday dinners at home

**Sharron** flying to San Diego to help take her mother, Mildred Middleton, in a lift van to the beautiful wedding of her niece, Shirean; flying on to Tokyo to join Howard for Christmas--dinners with Japanese friends, tea ceremony on New Year's Day, exploring with a Japanese friend who could read the signs; looking for anyone who could speak English; returning with Howard through Hawaii for a ten-day vacation; fluffing the nest at home to make the file room into a nursery for grandchildren and to make

room for Heather after she graduated; greeting Golden Corridor Republican Women at monthly meetings; making hundreds of phone calls before elections and events; organizing two neighborhood coffees; distributing copies of letters from Shari in Haiti and Herb and Jenny in India to prayer partners (If you have an e-mail address and/or want to receive copies, please let Sharron know [SharronA@ Cheerful.com.]); passing out certificates Howard printed on his color printer for RCN children's missionary book readers (Parents, thanks for reading to and/or encouraging your children to read. Look for our picture in Dec. 96 World Mission magazine.); celebrating Homecoming '97 with other college choir alumni in San Diego at the retirement concert for one of her favorite professors, Dr. Keith Pagan, and spending quality time with Grandma Middleton and her sister, Shirley Schmidt



**Howard and Sharron** exploring Matsumoto, Japan, where '98 Winter Olympics will be held; finding delicious meals at

"noodle shops," Italian, Chinese and Japanese restaurants (seated on mats on the floor); doing a "chat room" from Japan with Herb and Shirlene in their places in Oklahoma; returning from Japan via Hawaii, surprised to find they would have two Sundays that week due to crossing the international date line; Sharron triumphantly climbing to the top of Diamond Head; both reading in the shade while surf pounded the sea wall fifteen feet from their door on the Big Island; listening to a whale "sing" on a whale-watch boat trip; Howard taking an exciting helicopter tour of Kauai; later taking a fall break for beautiful colors in Branson, Missouri

**If you have time for a brief look,** here is what we are doing now.

**Howard** - Program Manager for DSC Communications spending almost half the year in Japan on a project for DDI, a large phone company; legal reform

**Sharron** - ESL teacher, "publications director" for letters from India and Haiti, children's librarian at Richardson Church of the Nazarene (RCN)

**Herb** (28), **Jenny** (26), **Abigail** (3), and **Benjamin** (18 mos.) - volunteer computer trainer for Emmanuel Hospital Association in northern India with Heart of God Ministries (HGM)

**Shari** (27) - Nazarene volunteer second-grade teacher at Quisqueya Christian School, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Shirlene** (25) - administrative assistant to Pastor of Evangelism, Recreation and Advertising at Bethany First Church of the Nazarene (BFC), Bethany, Oklahoma

**Heather** (23) - Human Resource specialist in the Accounting and Financial Development Program at Electronic Data Systems (EDS), Plano, Texas

**Herb** taking Heather's temporary job in Oklahoma City then bringing his family to Plano to stay with Howard and Sharron for nine months while he worked to pay for medical expenses incurred when Jenny had surgery last fall; driving with Heather to EDS when she worked there during vacations; becoming the official chef at home when Howard was away; communicating regularly with people around the world via Internet; traveling to California for a missions conference and, with Jenny and the kids, to Virginia for another; flying to a prayer conference in Colorado, taking his family there again to see Grandpa and Grandma Albertson and cousins, and on to Kansas to speak and see family before leaving for India in October

**Jenny** teaching at Children's Day Out and Vacation Bible School at RCN, attending Bible study with new friends, packing to

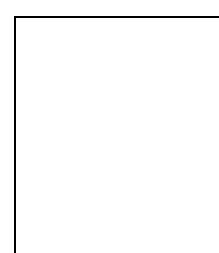
spend long weekends in Oklahoma with her grandma and friends; baking cookies with Abigail; trying new foods with her family at the Christian Indian Fellowships in the Dallas area; buying supplies to be in India for two years; planning Christmas '97 in India with another team and celebrating Abigail's birthday with great pizza; writing faxes from India about needs there during language school; speaking Hindi with an "aiya" who cooks, cleans and shops for them (If you want to send encouraging support, their address is c/o HGM, 3720 S. Hiwassee Rd., Choctaw, Oklahoma [73020-6128].)

**Abigail** planting seeds with Grandma which resulted in cucumbers, peppers, and okra to give away; smiling with half

of her mouth for "another" picture including one under Sharron's veil during the 29th anniversary modeling session; carrying books around for anyone to read to her; tumbling with Ben; becoming good

friends in India with Heather Truesdell, their nineteen-year-old nanny from Oregon; gloating "Abbi is tall—Ben is short"

**Benjamin** running "purpose-driven" through the house intent on catching up with Abigail in size as well as speed; rubbing his chest in sign language "please" for a drink; giggling uncontrollably when tickled; adopting as another uncle our 14-year-old Japanese friend, Jun Kadota, who came to spend six weeks with us in August/September

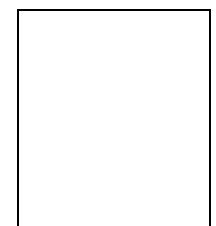


**Shari** spending Christmas '96 in Colorado with a special friend and his family; having fun with "shopping therapy" later when they decided to part

as friends; teaching enthusiastic second-graders in Mustang, Oklahoma; missing BFC's Cathedral Choir to come to Plano for weekends of play with Abigail and Benjamin; taking a break from summer work at a Nazarene camp in Colorado to see long-time friends at General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene with Sharron in San Antonio; hearing of a need for a second-grade teacher at a Christian school in Haiti, moving out of her classroom and apartment, arriving in Port-au-Prince five weeks later; writing home about no air conditioning, pot holes, water trucked in, sharing an apartment with two other teachers, a maid who helps them three days each week, a "creative" class, singing in Handel's *Messiah* in an international choir, parents leaving the country due to unstable government conditions, fun times with other teachers (Her address if you wish to send support is c/o BFC, 6789 NW 39<sup>th</sup> Expressway, Bethany, Oklahoma [73008].)

**Shirlene** radiantly caring for Baby Jesus as Mary in BFC's Christmas presentation with Shari in the choir; traveling to St. Louis to be a bridesmaid; helping people find Sunday School classes at BFC; serving on

Women's Ministries Committee and as co-emcee for Spring High Tea; coordinating weddings; attending Cathedral Choir, singles events and advertising committee meetings; house-sitting for friends; rejoicing after surviving class 5 rapids on the BFC Colorado white-water rafting trip; counseling at mid-high camp; moving from her tiny apartment to a house with a good friend; co-emceeing "Wrapped with Love" again—a holiday ideas event at BFC; attending General Assembly and beginning a close friendship with Jeff Kazmaier, an architect from Kansas City who arranges to meet her either in his city or hers most weekends; taking registrations and coordinating the silent auction for SNU's "ritzy" Excel Auction at Cowboy Hall of Fame



**Heather** student teaching in first and fifth grades, loving every minute of it; looking back on four wonderful years at SNU as she graduated in May; coming home to "cheap rent;" deciding to do temporary work while waiting on God for direction and paying off her student loans; counseling at a summer camp; getting involved in the Ladies' Bible study at RCN and joining the choir; learning what it means to be a "single adult;" having the honor of singing at the wedding of a college friend; being a bridesmaid for a life-long friend; buying an '89 Volvo; rejoicing with Sharron when her college car, a '79 Volvo sold(!); attending a fun weekend prayer retreat with Sharron; praising the Lord when she got a permanent position at EDS in a group she had worked with twice before and had thoroughly enjoyed

**We sincerely hope this edition finds you realizing God's Love in your life.** We are excited about hearing from you. Please know that you are part of the "much" for which we are thankful and we are praying for you as we mail this to you.

**Your friends, the Albertsons:**  
Howard, Sharron,  
Herb, Jenny, Abigail, Benjamin,  
Shari, Shirlene and Heather