

Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2007, Everyone!! To be honest, it seems very strange to be writing this greeting from Cedar Lake, Indiana, instead of from Chile. Nevertheless, we hope that you all had a blessed JESUS-centered Christmas with family and friends and also have purposefully committed this new year to living a JESUS-centered life, as individuals and as His Body, as have we. Each and every day is our opportunity to do that.

This Christmas was indeed special for us as a family, as we spent special time together here in Indiana. Pictured below with Janine and Jack from left to right are: Julian (a Junior at Azusa Pacific U.), Jayme (16 yrs. Old), Jordan & Rob (married this past August 13th, and Christina (holding Bella, born May 28, 2006) & Jonathan (holding 2 year-old Joshua).



These past five months for us have been topsy-turvy and quite filled, traveling thousands of miles and using almost all of our weekends to visit with churches that support God's outreach through us in Chile. We have forged a vision for our continuing work there (a topic of our next newsletter), we have re-tooled and renewed in one five-day retreat and one five-day workshop, we were a part of our daughter, Jordan's, marriage to her fiancé, Rob Boldt, and we connected with relatives, friends, other churches and Christian universities. When we weren't using free time to contact churches, work on mission business, and prepare for the Nat'l Missionary Convention, we worked at our furlough home on much-needed projects. In the meantime, Jayme was studying at Hanover High School in Cedar Lake and is close to finishing the first semester of his junior year. One of the major inconveniences we had to deal with our first few months here was not having any telephone service or internet access in our home. That meant going to a neighbors' house (bless them!) to make phone calls and making trips to libraries to access our E-mails.

We finally were able to have both services up-and-running at home just before leaving for the NMC and on an extended trip to visit supporting churches in West Virginia and North Carolina, but while we were gone, our home was broken into.

Actually, we were very fortunate that more things were not taken, but two much-needed items that were, our computer and printer, have been sorely missed! We have thus printed this letter and E-mailed it to Katie in Chile, who is using our computer there (containing our E-mail address book, etc) to send it to you. Again, we feel very blessed that more was not taken and that no one was hurt, but apologize for our inability to get this greeting to you sooner.

A big thank you to every single home we've been blessed to stay in along the way during this extended time in the States—all of those stays represented a huge blessing to us, as has each and every special opportunity to be with supporters, friends, and family!!

At present, our plan is for Janine and Jayme to fly back to Chile on or about January 19, and for Jack to follow one week later. We still have much to do in leaving our house here in order, upstairs and down. Life is so unstable and fleeting in so many ways. In thinking about that as we return to Chilean life and ministry, we again ask that you continue to keep us and God's work through us in regular prayer. Yes, we are very dedicated and full of positive energy and plans, but it will always be the One and Only, Great and Eternal God of All Things that yields the harvest and all fruit in its season. He is faithful and totally reliable, keeping every promise in its perfect time, and it is Him that Christians must serve and follow. It is also He who gets extra glory every time He can answer a prayer earnestly given by one of his children.

God's work in Chile is so very worth it, as is his work anywhere and everywhere. Thanks to you all for each part you play in helping make possible God's work through us.

With much love and appreciation in a "long-term" Jesus,

Jack, Janine, and Jayme Swanson

U.S. mailing address: DCCC Chile Mission, 425 E. Exchange, University Park, IL 60466

U.S. phone number (until January 26): 219-374-4062

Chile address: Casilla 90, La Cisterna 14, Santiago, Chile, South America

Chile office phone number (California area code) 626-771-0492

E-mail: dcccChileMission@hotmail.com

Web site: www.chilemission.org

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