



### Merry Christmas From the Culbersons!

The year of 2004 has gone by extremely fast for us. Our year began bumpy with the death of our dog Plaid two days after Christmas. He was a good dog for seven years and we miss him very much. We watch my mom and dad's dog, Missy, when they are out of town so she has taken the doggie spot for right now and we enjoy her, especially Brianna who carries Missy around the house and tucks the dog in bed with her at night.

This summer the whole Culberson family got together in Pana, Illinois for a family reunion. It was a fun time and a tad crazy. All of the children that you see in the top picture (and their parents) stayed in one house for three days! There was definitely time for bonding! We skied, jet-skied, ate, laughed and cried! Next, we went to Bloomington, Illinois (where I grew up) and had a mini family reunion with a few of my relatives. We had a nice relaxed time with good conversation. We were also able to go past a few of our old houses and we spent the day at the park and zoo that I went to as a child.

Joel and I had some opportunities to serve the Lord together (without the girls) in some very neat places. We attended two Scholarship Camps this year, one in Arkansas and one in Big Bear Lake, California. It was my first time to California and I thought it was wonderful. This trip was especially special for Joel because this was the Awana Scholarship Camp he participated in as a teenager. Joel was in charge of the activities for the high school and he had a fantastic time. It was hard to tell who was having the most fun, Joel or the teens. I filled in wherever I was needed and was kept extremely busy! Our final stop for the year was to Seattle, Washington where we helped the Awana Missionaries with their Leadership Conference. The flight was the prettiest one we have ever been on. God's majesty and beauty is displayed gloriously in Washington! We were able to do many things while we were there and I got hooked on Caramel Mocha's!

Tiffany took swimming lessons this summer and she enjoyed it very much. She started school this year and has been excelling. Her teacher loves Tiffany's enthusiasm for learning. She has also been going crazy with her Awana! She was the clubber of the month for October and has completed her book and is almost finished with her review! All of this work is Tiffany's drive, not Mommy's pushing! This October, Tiffany accepted Jesus to be her Savior during our missions conference. Tiffany's baptism is going to be on December 26th and Joel will baptize her. Our prayers have been answered! Tiffany will turn six in February and is ready to be seven after that!

Brianna just turned four and we celebrated Strawberry Shortcake style! Brianna started Cubbies this year and is doing great. She will start pre-school in September and is looking forward to new friends! Brianna still steals the show wherever we go and does not know a stranger!

Erica turned two in August and is a go-getter! She can keep up with her big sisters most of the time. Erica loves to sing Jesus Loves Me, Twinkle Little Star and The Itsy Bitsy Spider. Her ever-present top-knot and beauty pageant wave is the source of many smiles to people passing by!

Joel and I pray that you know the peace of God that comes through knowing Christ as your personal Savior. Remember that Jesus' shed blood on the cross allows us to have a relationship with God. If you accept this gift of salvation it will be the best gift that you receive this year.

Merry Christmas  
Joel, Veronica, Tiffany, Brianna and Erica