



## Christmas 1999 Doorway to the new Millennium

In preparing to write this, I looked back at that notorious first Christmas letter I wrote. It started like this:

*Dear Friends,*

*For years Pat and I have read the wide varieties of Christmas letters from friends and relatives. Year after year, they come bringing good tidings and all the good news from the Previous year. They tell of Prosperity and good health. There is always a list of the many accomplishments of all the children and relatives. With all this in mind, it is obvious to us that everyone who takes the effort to write and send Christmas letters is always rewarded with another year of unlimited good luck. Now, we too will join this list of those who shape their own destiny by sending the Notorious Christmas Letter. You must keep in mind that this is our first year so you might say we are just priming the pump. Next year we can tell you about all the good things that have happened in 1984. This year we will just have to tell you the truth!*

A long time has passed since then. At that time, Krystal was just entering school. Now Krystal has entered a new school but this time she is the teacher! Looking back on this year, it is obvious that our life revolved around these changes. In May of this year, Krystal graduated from Augustana College in the Quad Cities with a Bachelor of Arts degree.



She was certified to teach English in the upper grades. So, the early part of the year was devoted to graduation and all that goes with it. We had a nice party here and many of her previous teachers came to wish her well. She took a summer job with the school district and mailed out job applications. Many of the applications went to Florida, the land of Disney, seashores and sun! She and a friend, Courtney drove down to a regional job fair in June but nothing came from that. In July, The statewide job fair was in Tampa. She flew down to that and on the second day she was offered and took a job at Lee Middle School in Orlando. She is now teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade English.



With the summer half over, now we had to get her moved to Florida. The end of July, she and Courtney drove back down to Florida. She had new teacher orientation for the week before school and in her spare time they had to look for an apartment. They lived in the Marriott near the airport at the school districts expense. The end of the week, Kim and I drove down to take more important stuff (computer) and to pick up Courtney and bring her back up north. It was a quick three-day trip. As soon as we arrived home, I had to start packing Krystal's furniture to take down in my small trailer. The trailer was open so I shrink wrapped EVERYTHING! Once I had it in the trailer, I shrink wrapped the trailer with all its contents. It was certainly a site but I wasn't taking any chances. It was a long drive. So, the first week of August, Pat, Kim and I headed for Florida. Only the VW with six rooms of furniture strapped on top looked any crazier. We arrived in Florida only to find that the apartment was not quite ready so we took the opportunity to spend some quality time with our friends, Wil and Elizabeth Dershimier. They put us all up till we could move Krystal into her apartment.





Moving day came and Krystal went to work we went to move. We were aided by Wil and Elizabeth in this labor of love. Now picture this, a trailer full of furniture with shrink wrap holding it together, an apartment up a flight of outside stairs, the temperature was typical for Florida summer, high 90's, humidity that made fog look dry and four overweight, over 50, movers. Kim was the only one that looked up to the task. As it turned out, removing the plastic wrap was as difficult as moving the stuff up the stairs. But we did it and just as the last item was in place, Krystal came home from work!

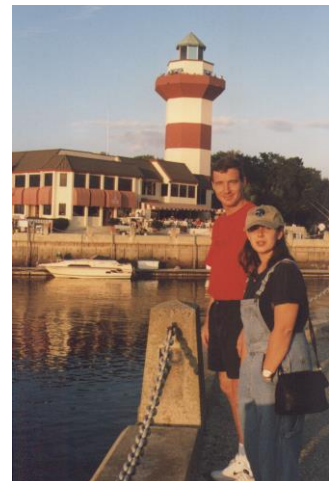
Now Krystal is settled in and has a new boyfriend. She loves Florida, she still likes teaching but the school is more like an inner city school and it has certainly been a challenge. Her boyfriend Mark lives on the west side of Orlando and works at the Cape. His work is in computers but he can't talk much about it. He is older than Krystal is but the mature influence has been nice. He has been very good to her. We like him a lot! So, you can see 1999 primarily revolved around Krystal. We say we gave our summer to Krystal this year.



In the 1984 Christmas letter, there were only three of us. Kim was not even born. Now she is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Franklin Middle School. She came home from school the other day telling us she was voted "the student most likely to succeed in life", also voted "the best student in her class", and voted "the biggest flirt". I'm still not sure which one held the highest regard! We do know, she is an excellent student and gets high marks (Straight A's) on her report card. But, I'm still not convinced that was the highest of the three! She spends most of her time on the computer either gaming or communicating. She has friends all over the world. It certainly makes it a small world. She e-mails, chats and even has a voice chat program that they use to hear each others accents. She e-mails pictures and I assume it won't be long before she will some how set up a picture phone. That's my Kim truly in the computer age. She is always showing me how to do something on the computer. I can see in her eyes she is thinking "Dad, don't you know anything about computers?" She has always been the one that had to show the teachers how to do

something on the computer. Sure glad we have smart kids to take care of us.

Our most recent adventure was a trip to Hilton Head SC. A fellow at Pat's work had won a week's stay in a condo for 6 persons during Thanksgiving week on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. He could not use it and ended up transferring it over to Pat and me. Pat asked for that week off, but could not get it as another girl was going to be off the same timeframe. So we made our plans to drive the 900 miles on Wednesday night and come back on Monday after TG. Then, on the Friday before, her boss told her she could go ahead and have off Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday BEFORE Thanksgiving. Well, with not finding out until so late, we could not make arrangements for our dogs to be at the kennel until Monday morning and Kim had to acolyte at church on Sunday. So we spent the weekend home preparing for our trip. We arrived in Hilton Head late Monday night after a 15-hour drive. Every time I wanted to pass the wheel over to Pat, it either got too congested for her to drive or too dark or too rainy. It was a long drive but worth every minute of it. Hilton Head was fantastic. The weather was great. It rained





several times but just for short periods and then cleared off. We loved it. Our faithful friends from Florida joined us on Wednesday and Elizabeth cooked the Thanksgiving turkey. It was truly a wonderful Thanksgiving. On Friday after Thanksgiving, Krystal and Mark drove up to spend a couple nights. It was a wonderful finale to the trip.



On a sadder note, the weekend before we left for Hilton Head, Pat found out that her brother had passed away. November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday afternoon around 2:45 PM, Pat received a phone call from her (ex)sister-in-law, Judy, who told her that her brother, Jerry (age 54) had died of a heart attack that morning as he was getting out of bed. In talking with Jerry's wife, it was apparent some harsh feelings were still there. This was echoed in the obituary that left out surviving siblings. Pat was glad she had made peace with Jerry a short time before. This was a sad end to an already sad chapter in her life.



Now you are up-to-date with what has happened in our lives during 1999. Krystal will be coming home for a week at Christmas. Unfortunately, Mark will not be able to come up with her. I think he is afraid of the possibility of snow. He has never seen it. WE are planning a party for New Year's Eve but it won't be for Pat and I. It will be for Kim. We don't know all the particulars yet but I'm sure it will be an experience!

We don't write much except for e-mail. We both check that regularly and respond. So, if you have an e-mail address, PLEASE share it with us. We would love to be able to communicate more often. My address is

[housdoctor@aol.com](mailto:housdoctor@aol.com) and Pat's is [pjsriner@aol.com](mailto:pjsriner@aol.com). I am not certain how long we will keep the AOL account although we have had it for years. You can ALWAYS get us through my website [www.housdoctor.com](http://www.housdoctor.com) or mail to [DFS@housdoctor.com](mailto:DFS@housdoctor.com). Krystal's is [twinks0077@aol.com](mailto:twinks0077@aol.com) and Kim's is [tiger0086@aol.com](mailto:tiger0086@aol.com). Kim was reluctant to have her address included because she gets so much mail already. "KIDS," what can I say – "I love them"

This once-a-year letter brings with it peace, love, and joy for the very Merriest Christmas for you and your families and to wish everyone the most prosperous and happiest of New Years. Bring on 2000...we're ready for the New Millennium!



God bless each and every one of you!  
Love and Light,

Dulany, Pat and Kim  
(and Krystal in Orlando)

