

✧ Christmas 2010 ✧

Greetings and felicitations from Carl, Carolyn, and Teresa Wenning of Normal, Illinois!

Dear Family and Friends,

The big news for 2010 was the birth of our granddaughter, Thérèse Isabel Vieyra, to Rebecca and Chrystian. But first, some background. Rebecca gave the keynote address to some 200 girls attending the *Expanding Your Horizons* conference at Illinois State University on Saturday, March 20th. The evening before, and just before we picked up Rebecca from the airport, Chrystian told us – much to our surprise – that Rebecca was expecting. We welcomed Thérèse (pronounced Ter-ez, not Ter-ése) into the world on Saturday, October 16th. Thérèse was a healthy 7 lbs and 6 ozs. Mom and dad are doing well, and Thérèse has now learned how to cry – LOUDLY! She has terrific lungs. We were able to meet her the following day. Five days after Thérèse's birth, Carolyn returned to Crystal Lake to help Rebecca and Chrystian along. Fortunately, Rebecca has a four-month break from school and Chrystian has a “telecommute” job working for Motorola of Schaumburg, IL. Thérèse was baptized in Crystal Lake, IL, on Sunday, November 21st, with the whole family in attendance. Grandma Agnes Wenning came for a Thanksgiving visit this year to meet Thérèse, and we were able to capture a very special four-generation picture.



In other areas, 2010 has been a busy year for all of us. Teresa, now 19 years old, completed her first year as a freshman at Illinois State University, and is now in the middle of her sophomore year. During April she decided to change her major from nursing to medical laboratory science. Her wonderful experience with the lab setting during an introductory chemistry course made her feel that this was a better life track for her. During the latter part of the year, Teresa started attending the John Paul II Catholic Newman Center on the campus of ISU. She has made a few friends already and hopes to make more while on her upcoming trip, with the diocese, to Washington, DC, for the annual March for Life.

Carolyn traveled to Chicago on April 24th to visit with Chrystian and Rebecca, Chrystian's cousins, and her cousin Dorothy and friend Jean-Claude – who were in Chicago visiting from Ontario, Canada.

Carolyn was finally able to sell her mother's house in Momence, IL, on June 17th. The house was on the market since March 2008 following Rita's death in November 2007. While we had moved some items out of the house earlier, Carolyn had to finish cleaning out the house on the morning of the closing.

On June 26th, Carolyn earned her certification as a Pharmacy Technician after passing a test in Springfield, IL. As a result, she is now Carolyn Wenning, CPhT. She earned a pay raise as a result. She has been working at the Wal-Mart Pharmacy in Bloomington for four years now, and continues to enjoy her job despite the stress of dealing with some not-so-nice customers. Carolyn spends a lot of time at work, attending to family affairs, and taking care of the animals, both domestic and wild. The family cats, Catarina, Mystique, Romeo, and Pac Man, always want her attention.

Carolyn, Carl, and Chrystian had an early celebration of Ground Hog Day in Woodstock, IL, on January 30th. Woodstock, as you might now know, was the set of Bill Murray's movie *Ground Hog Day*. On the way home from our visit to Crystal Lake, we reminisced about Rebecca's earliest years when we read through a diary that we kept of the daily occurrences during the first years of her life. It made us appreciate God's great blessings upon us, just the way we do when we re-read these Christmas letters that we have produced as a family history ever since 1993.

From May 21st to June 1st Carolyn and Carl took a cruise to Alaska. They flew to Vancouver, British Columbia, for a day of tourism, and the next day boarded a 116,000-ton ship, the Diamond Princess. They felt quite at home as this is the sister ship to the Emerald Princess they traveled on during their spring 2009 Baltic cruise. They cruised along the western coast of Canada and then sailed through Glacier Bay before docking near Anchorage. They then boarded a train for a 3-day adventure in Denali National Park in central Alaska.



From June 13-20 Carl traveled with his mother Agnes to visit family friend Shirley Joslin in Roanoke, Virginia, and his Uncle Norb and Aunt Wilma in Easley, South Carolina. On June 21st both Carl and his mother were present for the wedding of his sister Beverly to Edward Gray.

While Carl has been retired since May 2008, he continues to work part time. During 2010 he worked 40% time for Illinois State University, and also as a field researcher for the Ohio State and Wright State Universities' physics departments. Carl continues to be involved in professional organizations, especially the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and the Illinois Science Teachers Association. With support of the AAPT, he hosted a meeting for physics teachers in Springfield IL, on February 27th. He gave conference talks and presented workshops in March, October, and November to these statewide associations.

Carl continues to be actively involved in his hobby of amateur astronomy as well. He coordinated the February 6th golden anniversary meeting of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers at Ewing Manor in Bloomington. On the weekend of April 16-17, he coordinated the club's hosting of the North Central Region Astronomical League conference. He attended the MVAS Apollo Rendezvous in Dayton, OH, on June 11-12, where he purchased a set of enormous binoculars. On August 1st, Carl turned a new 18-inch Obsession telescope to the sky for the first time. In September he completed a 139-page book titled *History of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers 1960 – 2010*. He started the effort some 30 years earlier. On December 1st, Carl traveled to Santiago, Chile, with his friend Mitch Luman for several nights of viewing. Friends Selma and Claudio Perez Matzen hosted their visit to view the southern skies from observatories in Santiago and the Andes Mountains near El Ingenio.

We were saddened to hear that Carl's Uncle Werner passed away at 92 years of age, one day short of the 66th anniversary of D-Day invasion of France in which he was involved. He was buried on June 9th and Carl was present at the funeral to help console his Aunt Gwenda – a war bride from England. They had been married for 62 years – a remarkable milestone. We were further saddened by the Thanksgiving Day passing of Carl's Aunt Norma, wife of his Uncle Paul (who also participated in the D-Day invasion) and sister of his Aunt Joan. Unfortunately, due to Carl's trip to South America at this time, he was unable to attend her funeral.



On November 11th, a passing car killed our beloved cat Phyllis on the street in front of our house. Normally, Phyllis would stay close to home but for some reason was crossing the darkened street that evening. We were all devastated by this loss. Carolyn had adopted Phyllis from the Humane Society on November 3, 1997, for Carl's birthday. She was the meanest cat at the time and no one else would adopt her, but our family transformed her into a most loveable cat. We do and will miss her. She was about 15 years old. Always very close to one another, Phyllis celebrated Carl's 58th birthday on November 3rd; this was the last picture we took of her.

Well, that about covers the year 2010 for our very busy family... We are looking forward to another exciting year next year. The family has already planned an Asian international adventure for Teresa as an early graduation gift. Stay tuned for next year's Christmas letter to learn about those details.

Merry Christmas and **Happy New Year** from our family to yours!

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