



Merry Christmas 2010

Dave & Marnie

Warroad, MN

Mark & Tim

Grand Forks, ND

Keren

Bemidji, MN

On our 27th anniversary, Dave and I became empty nesters as we helped Mark and Tim (who graduated from high school this past spring) move into their new apartment in Grand Forks. Keren is finishing her senior year at Bemidji State University, which leaves us here alone with our two dogs, Allie and Dallas. At first, the quiet was deafening; and I'm still pretty sure we are both experiencing a degree of culture shock. After homeschooling for 22 years, this house *without a child in it* is practically unthinkable. Yet, here we are, so happy that our kids are adults, making their own way in the world. This also means we have three empty bedrooms; so, if you feel like getting away for the weekend, come visit us!

Dave continues to serve on the boards of the Asian School of Evangelism and Oak Hills Christian College. This fall he is also teaching as an adjunct professor of Retail Marketing for Oak Hills, making the five hour round-trip each Tuesday. Dave visits Keren each week, as she lives about ten minutes from campus, and I've been able to tag along a few times, as well.

I continue to host my websites, and since January of last year, have been doing some consulting with the Northwest Regional Library system. This fall I launched my new paperback book series for Super Busy Women by publishing two books: *Feeling Loved* and *Minute Memoirs*, both now available from any bookseller.

This fall Dave and I sponsored a marriage seminar at Woodland, which was well worth every minute we spent preparing and hosting it. After that, we started inviting couples over for dinner and a movie, games or chat time. We hope this continues, as we feel so blessed to still be married during a time in history when that is no small feat. We see that couples need each other, two on two, and in groups, for fun and spiritual encouragement.

We are also grateful for the survival, to date, of Soulutions and M&K. We have never seen numbers so challenging as this year, as our small-town, small businesses try to make ends meet in a down economy. Pray with us as we seek God for direction, wisdom and help. Our favorite provision is how He helps us every single day by providing great employees, enjoyable customers and responsible vendors. We are so grateful!

As we enter the new year, we look forward to February as Dave helps organize the Oak Hills Board Banquet and I share at the Willmar EFree's Women's Retreat. In March we plan to use our earned miles and time share tokens to sneak away to Florida to visit my sisters and take a break. In April, the republished version of my *Kitchen Shortcuts* book comes out and in May, Keren graduates from college. During and after that, our high points will be visits to and from our kids, with our friends, and times connecting with you – in the minutes we have. Merry Christmas and God bless you! We love you!