

Dear family and friends,

December 2006

Merry Christmas from Colorado Springs! Another year comes to an end. We have had our first child move out of the house this year – our wonderful exchange student, Seiji Higa from Okinawa, who spent eleven months with us, returning to Okinawa in June. Ethan, about to turn 17, was able to visit him and spend time with him in Japan when he went on a mission trip with Mountain Springs Church. We are back down to four this year. Like last year, they are all in different schools. Here is a spotlight on each, but first, if you prefer to skim letters like this, no problem. We'll cut to the chase: Have a blessed Christmas and terrific 2007, filled with God's grace to you! We do get comments and notes from people who look forward to this annual family update, so here goes:

Miriam (10) continues as a fifth grader at a local charter school, The Classical Academy, enjoying gymnastics, Children's Church, Jr. Girl Scouts, and piano. Kaylyn (12) goes to a different campus of TCA. She is involved in flute, gymnastics, youth group, and piano, and spent time with Eric in Shanghai and Hangzhou China this summer where he was leading a research symposium. Zachary (14) is in 8th grade at Mountain Ridge Middle School in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, busy with cross-country, Colorado Springs Youth Symphony, piano, and violin. He and Seiji went to Juarez, Mexico over spring break with a church group to build a small home. Kaylyn and Zachary have become especially involved in writing. Kaylyn and Miriam did their first residential summer camp this year, with Navigators, bringing back Kristy's many childhood summer camp memories. Ethan is a junior at Pine Creek H.S., active in youth group, cross-country, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was in the Air Force Academy's residential Aviation Camp this summer, and later completed the Pikes Peak Ascent half-marathon, going 13.1 miles uphill from the base in Manitou Springs up to the top of Colorado's most famous mountain. Ethan is hoping to return to Uganda this summer after his 2005 mission trip there, and Kristy and Zachary will join him, if we raise sufficient support for them. Kristy resigned her part-time position at Memorial Hospital this summer, but even with that and with Seiji returning to Japan, life seems as busy as ever. She, Kaylyn and Miriam spent their first week back in Fairfax County this fall after our 2003 move from Virginia and loved the opportunity to stay with and visit dear family friends. Kaylyn and Kristy are involved in a mother-daughter Bible Study with another mom and her daughter.

Eric continues running a learning science research program at the Air Force Academy. He had the heaviest travel year of his career, but was fortunate in being able to have Kaylyn join him in China and the boys accompany him in Germany and France early in the year. He was on five continents this year in some beautiful locations, but considers the most beautiful views he saw to be the mountains in Colorado and some of the wooded lands of Wisconsin. Go figure. He made the spur of the moment decision in a barber's chair this summer to ask for a completely shaved head, and has not looked back and does not seem to have any plans to change.

As we said last year, life is full, and for us right now, too fast with many tugs and pulls. At least the mountains in our window don't seem fazed by any of the bustle of life. Thank you family and friends who have and will continue to be such an important part of our lives. May God bring you through life's hills and valleys and be a special grace to you at Christmas. We welcome email. You can reach us at [kristylhamilton@aol.com](mailto:kristylhamilton@aol.com) and at [erichamilton@aol.com](mailto:erichamilton@aol.com). With much love & affection from Colorado Springs,



Left to Right: Miriam, Zachary, Kaylyn, Eric, Kristy, Ethan

*Kristy, Eric, Ethan, Zachary, Kaylyn and Miriam*