



*“Holiday Greetings from the Zweibohmers”
Travis, Britta, Matthew and Kelsey
2010*

Kelsey can be heard joyfully singing, humming and creating every day. At nine years old, she is quickly replacing her mom as chief decorator and gift wrapper. Her constant happiness and positive spirit continues to grow as she ages and she enjoyed cooking and crafting classes, summer recreation and fitness programs as well as dressing up as a dentist for Halloween. She was chosen to participate in the Cedar Rapids school district's "Program for Academic Talent" and is looking forward to her first theatre classes this spring.

Matthew is eleven years old and unlike most boys his age, he has very little interest in sports. He's participated in soccer, basketball and wrestling through the years, but always finds himself far more interested in reading, researching and learning all he can about world history and current events. His day usually begins with absorbing all the information he can in newspapers, magazines and news websites. Matthew's constant diligence paid off by being invited to participate in accelerated classes at his school and at the University of Iowa. He recently earned a first place medal in advanced robotics and several other medals and certificates for academic achievement. Other than breaking his toe, Matthew had a fabulous year and will be starting middle school next fall.

Britta is still walking on air after last month's visit to London. England had always been at the top of her travel destination list, and a very last minute opportunity allowed her to travel with Travis on a business trip. Highlights included Windsor Castle, Westminster Abbey, the London Bridge and Stonehenge. We find it amusing that the least planned vacation we ever took happened to be one of the nicest! Ironically, Britta is now busy planning a tropical family cruise that will take place early next year. It will be interesting to see if a planned vacation for four or unplanned travel for two is better. One thing's for sure, traveling has been a wonderful diversion of the day-to-day care of her mother. Martha now has a thyroid disease and circulatory issues that require a lot of assistance and patience.

Travis began the year with a rousing round of "musical vehicles." He owned three different vehicles in two months and came to the conclusion that he is an Audi man. Unfortunately, he hasn't spent much time behind the wheel as he is constantly traveling within the United States, Canada and England. He did however find the time to run half marathons, go shooting at the range and buy a few more Harley parts. The building of the Harley Davidson has again taken a back seat to the high costs of a new roof and windows for our home. We're not complaining though as this is the first year in recent memory that seemed almost normal. We had encountered so many family illnesses, deaths and unfortunate circumstances the last couple of years, but this year felt as if the tide is finally turning for the better.

Here's hoping your family encountered a happy and healthy year as well and that 2011 is filled with all the things you love. It seems the years go by faster the older we get and the holidays are a wonderful time to slow down a bit and appreciate our many blessings. Merry Christmas to all our dear friends and family!

