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Merry
Christmas

Dear Friends and Family,

In 2009 we celebrated the growth of our family by one. Our son Mark and his wife Jenny welcomed their daughter Margaret Belle into their home on February 14th. She arrived early and needed to stay in the hospital for a while. Today she is in good health and doing well.



We started the year in Phoenix visiting Melissa, Treacey, Savannah, and Ian. I can report two important 2009 milestones in their lives. First, in July, our oldest grandchild Savannah turned 13. A teenager! Hard to believe when looking down the family tree from my limb. But the more important milestone is Melissa's graduation from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh with a BS in Graphic Design. For the last several years she's worked very hard and graduated with a straight-A average.

Pictured below are Ian, who will turn 11 next month, and Savannah. Ian is big into football where he plays linebacker and fullback. Even if you're only slightly into "facebook" you'll be able to find Savannah talking about her many interests. Most importantly, however, both kids are doing very, very well in school.

This year we travelled several times to Gallitzin, PA, Nancy's home town. Nancy's Mom turned 91 this year and has been feeling the weight of all those years. She was hospitalized several times, most recently in early December. She's back home now and much improved.



We do plan to spend Christmas with her, and we are hoping that the weather cooperates just a little allowing us to go from house to house on Christmas Day visiting with Nancy's many relatives, which is a long standing tradition in her family.

Mark and Jenny's kids, our other grandchildren, are pictured here. Jackson is 7, John Michael is 4, and Margaret is 10 months. Jackson plays baseball and basketball and started Cub Scouts this year. John Michael played 4-year-old soccer, entertainment for his grandparents. Margaret is busy learning to crawl around investigating all the nooks and crannies of her home.

We made a second visit to Melissa's home in July and, right after that, a return visit to one of Alabama's beaches with Mark and his family. In addition to his practice, Mark travels around the country speaking at orthodontic conferences on the many aspects of his profession. His travels will be labelled "worldwide" when he presents at the 7th International Orthodontic Congress in Sydney, Australia, in early February, 2010.

Except for family visits, Nancy and I didn't travel much this year. Instead we spent time at home remodelling the house, inside and out. We do have plans for 2010 including my 50th high school reunion! We wish all of our friends and family members a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

