



Cori, Chris, Shannon, Amanda, Claire, La'akea, Kainoa, Brian, Mary Lou, Zacharie, Ana, Todd, Jasmine, Sarah, Jesse, and Eve

2007

Merry Christmas

It is getting hard to gather the whole Swagerty clan together at one time in order to capture our annual family photo. Last year, we had to include two separate pictures in order to include everyone. This year, we thought we had it all together. The photo was complete, and we were all ready to write our letter, when we got a call from Shannon. Shannon and Amanda were expecting to give birth to their first child on January 20th. Well, Claire Isabel decided she didn't want to miss out on all the Christmas fun. She arrived on December 11th weighing in at 5 pounds and 6 ounces. Mother and baby are doing well. They are keeping Claire at the hospital for a while to make sure her lungs are fully developed and all. We got word today that she is now off of the feeding tube and respirator. We all hope she can go home soon. I guess Brian will have to dust off his PhotoShop skills and insert her into the family picture.

Cori and Chris are kept incredibly busy with their restaurant, Chris' other businesses, and Cori's aerobics classes; all of the kids sports, arts, and school activities; and, oh ya, taking care of their 6 horses, 8 cats, 14 dogs (11 of them puppies), many pigeons, two doves, and a partridge in a pear tree that occasionally flies in. Todd and Ana are also busy with their work and family activities. Todd changed jobs this year and now is working as an engineer for a firm in Chico. They keep busy with their jobs, the boy's

activities, playing in an adult soccer league, and working on their house. Todd is in the process of installing an irrigation system. In doing so, he discovered a rotting deck, and his next project. Amanda is teaching 1st grade in Folsom and Shannon is stationed in Rio Vista in the Coast Guard. They are busy with the transition into parenthood. Sarah finished her fall semester and now has just two classes to graduate. The trick will be actually getting into those classes. She ran a marathon this year. Be careful what you put on your New Year's Resolution list! Jesse made a big step into the world of work. He now works in a high-rise in San Francisco hiring people to fill jobs in the technology field. He also moved into a centrally located apartment with Eve.

A major event this last year for us was experiencing an actual firestorm. It was pretty amazing (and kind of scary) to be so close to such an event. We first saw smoke on Sunday afternoon. That night the Santa Ana winds picked up and fanned the flames with up to 80 mph winds. We loaded up the cars with our precious possessions, but by monitoring the fire via TV and looking outside, we decided to weather out the storm. Luckily for us (but not so fortunately for some others), the front of the fire split and went on either side of us. We had over 250 homes burn just two miles to the south of us and another 150 homes burn two miles to the east of us. Then there was the aftermath. Watching President Bush board his helicopter on TV, and then moments later watching four helicopters flying overhead and circling above us was quite an experience. Who would of thought that we would have to move to Southern California to experience a major firestorm, when we have lived so long amongst the manzanita and scrub oak in Northern California?

We have had our challenges this year. Brian's mother died in June, Brian had neck surgery in July, and Mary Lou had to have her ankle operated on in March because of her encounter with a stingray. But we also have enjoyed being in San Diego. We love being able to take advantage of so many events, occurring such a short distance away. We have traveled to Las Vegas and seen Cirque du Soliel: Beatles Love (what a show!). We've visited Disneyland, California Adventure Park, Legoland, Rosarita, Mexico, and Brian went to the Giant's spring training in Arizona. We've been able to have all four grandchildren come visit us at various times and all together for a week. We had lots of beach trips during that time! Our house is always open to a visit.

Well, we better get going now. We thought our Christmas shopping was all done, but then along came Claire. Now we need to get birthday and Christmas presents. Oh, poor us! :-)

We hope all is well with you and your families. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays,

The Swagerty's