

Dear Friends,

As another year draws to a close, we pray that you and your loved ones will have a blessed and meaningful Christmas celebration. We also hope that you will be able to take some time to send us an update of what has been happening in your life over the past months. For us, this is an exciting time of changes and of welcoming new members to our family!

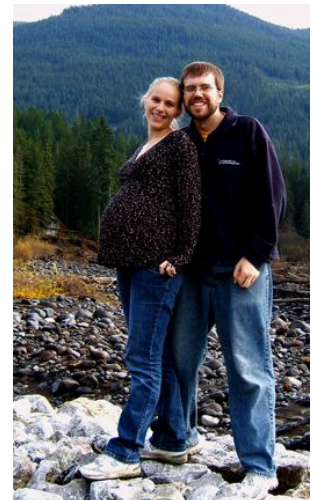
Our holiday season began with a bang when Eric Hopkins proposed to our daughter Sara on Thanksgiving night. Eric and Sara will both graduate from Southern Nazarene University next May, and they are planning a wedding a few weeks after that. We are so happy for them, and glad to have Eric in our family. Sara has been student teaching this fall; she has had a great experience teaching junior high science and hopes to continue working with that age group after graduation. The coming months will be full for her as she finishes up requirements for graduation, continues to play tennis for SNU, leads a children's ministry at OKC friends, and works with Eric to plan their wedding. Please pray for them as they make plans for their life together.



Just before Christmas our daughter Andrea will arrive from Aguascalientes, Mexico, where she serves as a missionary with Evangelical Friends Mission. This is the first time in three years that she will be here for the holidays, and we're so thankful that she will be with us. Andrea's Thanksgiving was spent hosting a group of 32 music students in her home. She cooked a huge traditional Thanksgiving meal, prepared lots of fun games, and set aside time to share her testimony with her guests, along with giving them the opportunity to express thanks. It was a very moving time for them, and of course they also enjoyed the food and the laughter. In addition to her ministry responsibilities, Andrea continues to play trumpet on a part-time basis with the Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra, and to work on her

Master's degree through Fuller Theological Seminary's distance learning program. Her boyfriend Aris recently graduated from law school. At this point he is teaching chess part-time while he looks for a legal position. We ask your prayers for God's direction for their lives and ministries.

Sometime before the end of the year we will have the joy of becoming grandparents! Jason and Laura are expecting a baby girl right around Christmastime. After experiencing the grief of three miscarriages, they are extremely thankful that Laura was able to get testing and treatment which have allowed her to carry this baby. Because of the high-risk pregnancy, Jason and Laura's mission agency (Servant's to Asia's Urban Poor) recommended that they delay their planned departure for Indonesia and instead continue to work with the Servants team in Vancouver, B.C. So the baby will be born in Canada, and a few months later they hope to join their team members in the slums of Jakarta. Five of us (David, Joyce, Andrea, Sara and Eric) plan to travel to Vancouver in early January to meet our granddaughter and niece, and to celebrate with Jason and Laura. We can't wait, and just wish that Aris could be with us as well. We'd appreciate your prayers for a safe delivery, a healthy baby, and for Jason and Laura to have wisdom as new parents.



In August, Joyce made the transition to a full-time position as administrator at Friendswood Friends Church. She loves the job but is still figuring out how to balance work responsibilities, ministry, and keeping up with things at home. David continues to give leadership to the Coalition for Hispanic Ministries. He enjoys the opportunity to partner with some of God's faithful servants all over the U.S. and Latin America. Just in the past few weeks he has taught a course on Theology to church leaders in Mexico City, helped plan an international conference for Hispanic leaders which was held in Kingston, New York, spoken at a celebration service for the rapidly-growing Blue Island Church in the Chicago area, and traveled to Matamoros for an outreach project with a group from Friends Community Church in Angleton. Good thing he likes to travel! This has been a tough year financially for CHM, as for many non-profit organizations, so we are praying for God's provision and direction for the future.

Please take a moment to send us a letter, email, phone call, facebook message – however you like to communicate! We'd love to know how we can be praying for you! May God's presence fill you with joy this Christmas season, may He bless you richly in the coming year, and use you mightily to build His kingdom.

In Christ,
David and Joyce Byrne
15727 Bougainvillea Lane Friendswood, TX 77546 713-922-3113
joycebyrne@gmail.com david@institutoalma.org

