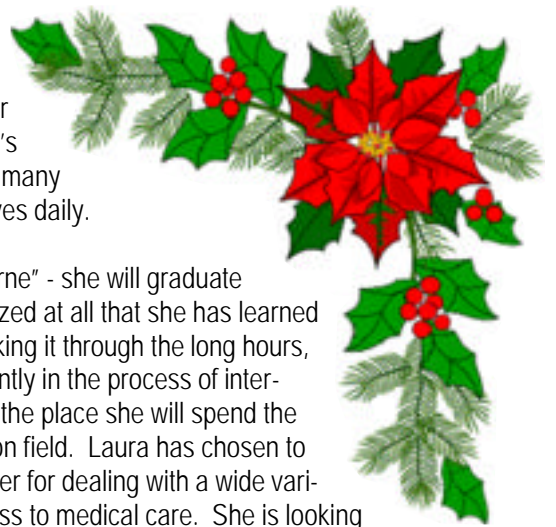


**Dear Friends,**

Greetings and Merry Christmas from **the Byrne family!** We pray that this letter finds you well, rejoicing in God's gift of salvation as you prepare to celebrate Christ's coming into the world. Although this has been a year of transition for our family in many ways, we are so thankful for God's unchanging love and grace that surround our lives daily.



**Laura** is just a few months away from being "Dr. Byrne" - she will graduate from Baylor College of Medicine in May. We are amazed at all that she has learned in the past four years, and at her perseverance in making it through the long hours, endless studying, and sleep deprivation. She is currently in the process of interviewing at residency programs, seeking God's will for the place she will spend the next 3-4 years of her life before heading for the mission field. Laura has chosen to specialize in family medicine, an area that will equip her for dealing with a wide variety of patients who will most likely have no other access to medical care. She is looking for a program that will give her experience in performing surgical procedures such as C-sections, appendectomies, etc. The process is that she will rank the programs that she visits in order of her preference, each program ranks all the students that have interviewed there, and next March on "Match Day" Laura and thousands of other medical students across the country will receive sealed envelopes containing letters generated by the mysterious NRMP computer algorithm that tell them where they will be going. Very intense! Please pray that God would guide Laura to just the right place to prepare for her future ministry. Laura will be leaving for Pakistan right after Christmas, where she will do a two-month rotation in obstetrics/neonatal care at a mission hospital. She has been studying Urdu with great excitement as she looks forward to this opportunity for both learning and serving. If you would like to receive her updates from Pakistan, send her an email at [laura.r.b@gmail.com](mailto:laura.r.b@gmail.com).

We are thrilled that **Andrea** is now an EFM missionary serving in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Since she and her team arrived in March of this year, God has opened doors in some very special ways. Andrea is playing trumpet with the Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra, which has been a delight to her as well as a great opportunity for sharing the gospel. She finds that she has instant credibility and camaraderie with the other members of the orchestra just by virtue of being a musician, which means they have been very open to her sharing about her faith. Her position in the orchestra also provided the means to receive a musician's visa, expedited by local authorities since the ASO is government-supported. It is great to see how God took Andrea's gifts in music and her heart for ministry and put her in just the right spot. In addition to her work with the orchestra, Andrea spends much of her time in ministry at the local university, *Universidad Autonoma de Aguascalientes*.



She is excited about a new "bus stop outreach" beginning this week where she will ask university students waiting for their busses to fill out spiritual surveys as a means of finding those who are interested in knowing more about Christ.

This past July, David, Joyce and Sara had the opportunity to travel to Aguascalientes, where David and the new missionary team worked with Joe Roher and Chuck Mylander to lead a spiritual retreat for Hispanic pastors. God richly blessed the retreat, and it was so fun for our family to see Andrea in her new setting. It was definitely a role-reversal experience as we felt so dependent on Andrea for finding our way around town, watching her drive confidently in the crazy traffic. Aguascalientes is a gorgeous city; the concert hall where Andrea plays each week is more beautiful and modern than we could have imagined; and yet it is a city so much in need of the gospel. Please pray for the EFM team as they seek to reach people for Christ and establish a flourishing church.



**Sara** made the big transition to college life this year – she is a freshman at Southern Nazarene University near Oklahoma City. Her first semester has been fun and very busy for her as she has worked on a major in elementary education, played on the tennis team, worked at an after-school program for disadvantaged kids, and made lots of new friends. We're thankful that she is adjusting well and making wise decisions. Sara was surprised to discover that SNU owns a stable with over 50 horses, which she is free to ride whenever she wants once she completes an elementary horsemanship class. She has always wanted to learn to ride, so she made some quick changes to her schedule to fit the class in this fall. The other day she told us what a great time she was having, cantering through an obstacle course on a beautiful fall day, riding her favorite horse, Pepper. Sara is making plans to lead a children's program at Oklahoma City Friends Church beginning next semester. Right now she is excited about coming home for Christmas, enjoying some home cooking and the chance to play Ultimate Frisbee with her high school friends.

David and Joyce continue to enjoy the wide variety of activities that are part of the ministry with CHM. This year has been rather heavy on remodeling, as we have worked to recondition the parsonage and church building at League City Friends for a new bilingual ministry. But in recent weeks it has been good to shift gears toward more involvement in ministry – training church leaders, discipling new believers, and making plans for creative ways to reach out to the community.

We'd love to hear how you are doing – send an email to [joycebyrne@gmail.com](mailto:joycebyrne@gmail.com), or letters to our home address. We pray for God's rich blessings for you and your loved ones in 2007.

In Christ,

**David, Joyce, Laura, Andrea and Sara Byrne**