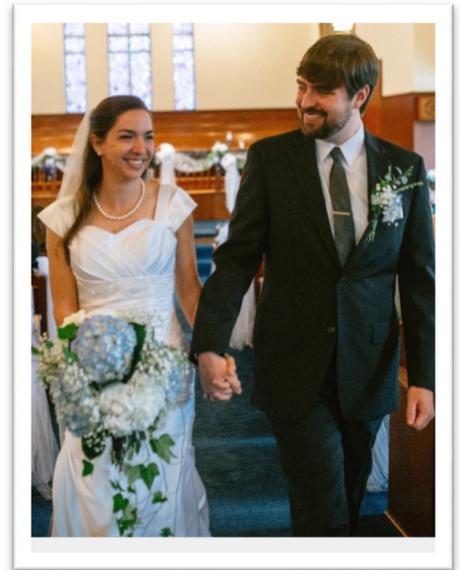


*¡Feliz Navidad!*

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas from the Byrne family! We pray that your celebration of Jesus' coming to the world will be full of joy and meaning. This holiday season finds us with many reasons to give thanks to God. A special highlight took place just a few weeks ago as we celebrated the marriage of our daughter Andrea to David Moses. Like Andrea, David is a "missionary kid"; he grew up in the Philippines as the oldest of 5 children in a missionary family. It has been a joy to get to know David and his family and to watch David and Andrea's relationship grow over the past year; we are so happy to welcome David to our family. The newlyweds are living in Ft. Worth, TX where David works as a computer programmer at Texas Wesleyan University. Andrea continues to teach trumpet, and they enjoy being involved in local ministry through their church.



As if a wedding weren't enough excitement for this holiday season, we are also anticipating the blessing of not just one, but TWO new grandchildren any day now! Laura & Jason are expecting their third child and Sara & Eric are expecting their first, both around the middle of December. We can't wait to welcome these two precious new lives and to celebrate with their parents. We would appreciate your prayers for everyone during this time of many adjustments (and probably some sleepless nights!)

Along with joy and blessings, we have also experienced grief and loss as my (Joyce's) Mom passed away unexpectedly in July. The last couple years have been difficult for Mom as she struggled with Alzheimers' disease and the changes that it brought to her life, but we are thankful for the privilege that we had of caring for her here in Friendswood and for the special memories we made. These days we often find ourselves thinking back to last Christmas and the fun of having Mom with us for things like Andrea's concerts, our church's caroling and hayride, going with the kids to the Christmas tree farm and other special holiday activities. How she would have loved being at Andrea's wedding and cuddling the two new babies! Mom touched all of our lives in many ways over the years, and we give thanks for her and remember her often.



Some updates on the rest of the family: Jason, Laura, 6-year-old Mika and 4-year-old Luke live just three houses down the street from us, so we have lots of opportunity to be together. Jason just graduated with his Master's degree from Fuller Seminary last week – another milestone to celebrate! Laura continues to practice medicine part-time as well as teach residents and medical students at UTMB in Galveston. Mika is in a dual-immersion bilingual kindergarten program; it is fun to hear her Spanish improve each day. Luke is in preschool and has become a bona fide expert on birds. They both look forward to helping out with their new baby brother or sister.

Sara and Eric are still in Columbus, Ohio where Eric works as an assistant Attorney General. Sara has been doing lots of substitute teaching as well as coaching tennis, but now will be staying home with the new baby. David continues to serve as executive director of the Coalition for

Hispanic Ministries while Joyce works as administrator at Friendswood Friends Church. Next August we will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – how quickly the years have passed!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, our family and friends scattered around the country and the world. We would love to hear from you by mail, email, phone call or however you like to keep in touch. May God bless you with the wonder of His presence and His grace.

Love,

David and Joyce Byrne and family