

Anderson Family Report 2012

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A Year of Travel



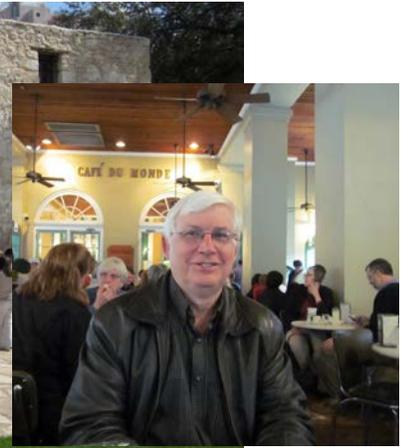
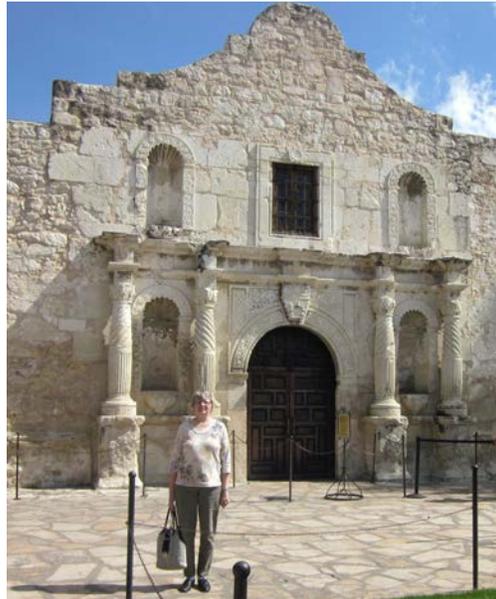
Our tree in White Bear Lake

Gordon and Mary Jane were able to take several road trips this year.

In February, we drove to South Padre Island at the southern tip of Texas where the weather was warm on the Gulf of Mexico. On the way down we stayed with friends in Kansas City, and we returned through New Orleans, where we stayed with Mary Jane's cousin David and his wife Lois.



South Padre Island



Mary Jane at the Alamo, Gordon at Café du Monde New Orleans

On Labor Day Weekend, Gordon, Mary Jane, Jayna and Gordon's Mom, Eunice, went to Detroit Lakes Minnesota to spend time on the Lake and with Jaga Gavin's family. On the return we went to Itasca State Park, the Headwaters of the Mississippi River.



Jaga, Tami, Grandma, and Jayna at the Headwaters of the Mississippi

On the 18th of September we began a trip across Canada from Sault Saint Marie to Halifax and Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and returned through St. John, New Brunswick, New England and New Jersey. We did genealogical research on Mary Jane's ancestors in Canada and New England. We saw Evan in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Tami and Jaga in Bloomfield, NJ.



Mary Jane with a distant cousin overlooking ancestral land on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia



Bed and Breakfast in Wolfville, Nova Scotia

please see other side

Tami and Jaga planted their first vegetable garden in

their New Jersey backyard: tomatoes, squash, and herbs. They experienced Hurricane Sandy in late October...Halloween was cancelled for the second year in a row due to weather! The trains into the city were suspended for almost 3 weeks. Stuck at home, they picked up new crafts and hobbies. They celebrated their 10 year of marriage, and continue working for their church in New York City.

Tami travelled to Asheville, NC twice this Spring to visit with friends and re-rent their property. Jaga went to Alaska twice



Jaga with a fish in Alaska

and a survival trip in the Adirondacks. He learned fly fishing and brought home 40 lbs of Salmon, Halibut, and Cod. Together they went to L.A., San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, Berkeley, Las Vegas, and Detroit Lakes, MN, this summer. In October they took a trip to Maine where they camped out on the beach.



Street car in San Francisco

Jayna continues to work for US Compliance in

Hopkins, planning events to help over 1000 other companies to be OSHA compliant with occupational safety and environmental standards. This summer she introduced us to her friend **Matt**, whose family is in the building contracting business. In August Tami picked up her car that Jayna was leasing, so she bought a used Audi that she enjoys for her 24 mile commute to work from St. Paul.

In addition to traveling with us to Detroit Lakes, she and Matt came to our house for Thanksgiving dinner. Then the next week they went to New York to visit Tami, see the city, and attend a Jets football game in the Meadowlands.



Jayna and Matt in NYC

Greta has had an adventurous year working in

NYC and traveling in the Middle East. She began the year as the graphic designer for a new church magazine called "UC". In May she left for Istanbul to work as a live-in English nanny, for a Turkish family and their two children for two



Greta in Istanbul



Greta Teaching

months. In July and August, she took a Conflict Resolution course in Jerusalem and lived in Tel Aviv meeting Peace NGOs and activities. She spent the last 4 months of 2012 as an English teacher for Project Hope in Palestine (the West Bank). On her travels she experienced local life and learned the hardships, stories, and generosity of new friends and families. She will be celebrating Christmas in Bethlehem before starting another volunteer opportunity for a youth-mentorship organization in Kampala, Uganda.



With Students

Evan is in his final year in the Industrial Design

program at the University of Bridgeport. In the Spring he won a fourth place prize in a regional auto design contest and was awarded an oversized check in a ceremony at the New York Auto Show in the Javits center. In the Summer he was able to get an internship at Display Producers in the Bronx; they make displays for Revlon, L'Oreal, and other national companies. His first week he was sent to Walmart Headquarters to set up a display, and did some other traveling for the company as well. He lived with a friend on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and commuted by subway. In August he competed in a tennis tournament at a sportsfest in Barrytown, New York.



Evan 2012

He was hired part-time after his internship and commutes to the Bronx by train from Bridgeport while he finishes his coursework. He also helped with youth ministries for high school students. He is home for two weeks this Christmas break.

Best Wishes for the New Year from the Andersons