

# Greetings from the Hynes Family!

To our family and friends,

We treasure your friendship and desire the Lord to bless you with all godliness and grace. This year we decided to send individual inputs bookended by Allen and Jennifer. The Lord has richly blessed us with spiritual growth and opened our eyes further to our spiritual poverty and need for Him. As we remember His birth, death, and resurrection may we die daily to our own will and live according to His purposes.

Allen. Our family has been establishing goals for the last few years that have helped us focus on important things. Many of this year's goals were focused on building relationships both inside and outside the family. As a result, we met new families, had several families stay in our home during their travels, and drove through 3 states to get to know a family better by spending part of our family vacation visiting them in their home.



Suzanna. This year I decided to make a carved picture of some fish after Mare made one. I thought I might make one of a Bible verse too, so I said to myself I'll make one of both – a Bible verse and a fish.

Maryanne. I really enjoy animals. One day a house wren got trapped in our garage and Becky thought I could catch it. Catching the wren was a little hard, but I finally did grab it. After bringing the bird into the house, Tim took some pictures and I let it go.

Rebecca. In 2009, we did a lot of work with our cockatiels. As the cockatiel number in our house expanded, we were able to raise three sets of baby birds, of four, eight and nine chicks, respectively. Emily, Maryanne, and I helped raise the little chicks, hand-feeding them, unsheathing their feathers, and running after them when they decided to take to their wings. Our family has had quite an adventure toting the baby 'tiels everywhere we go, from church to grandparents' house. We kept the little chicks in an aquarium, and heated them with a stand-lamp, which had to be loaded into the car whenever we went on a trip. Once the chicks were grown up and weaned, we sold them to a pet store. Whenever we make the trip to that pet store in Rockville, MD, we look to see if any of the previous set of birds we took there are left. Nope – all sold.





Timothy. Two experiences stood out to me this year. The first was working on our wall project together as a family. All summer long we worked on a massive driveway and multiple retaining wall project. The single biggest job was spreading numerous dump truck loads of fill dirt and top soil by hand. The entire project caused lots of stress between family members, but also resulted in some very important late night family discussions. In August, when the project was 75% done, we helped put on a local conference called Family Encouragement Weekend (FEW). After FEW, I

was blessed to be able to see how God is working in our lives; bringing us together even through tough family situations. The second experience that stood out to me was being the main photographer for a friend's wedding. Over the past 4 to 5 years I've taken lots of photos including family pictures for those attending our home church. Little did I know that this was preparation to bless my friend as his wedding photographer. God's hand is in everything I do, and I pray that I recognize it more and more.

Emily. This Columbus Day weekend I went on a five day mission's trip to Beattyville, Kentucky. This is the 6th annual free dental clinic that this group has done. I went the first time in 2004, with my home church, Family Bible Fellowship. I was really impressed with the need of the people there, not just for free dental care, but also the gospel. I was blessed by the unity we had in the Body of Christ. The team had Christians from all over the place; Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and California; but we all worked together, and were a powerful witness to the grace of God. One lady told me that we could never know how much of a blessing it was to get free dental care; apparently a lot of the people there can't afford it.



Jonathan. 2009 was a year of blessing and much growth for the Hynes family, as we experienced joy and suffering in Christ in many areas of life. God has been good to us! First, he has given us a church family who are truly in unity in our desire to seek Him first. He has given us friends who have had a positive impact on our family. And we have been blessed with the awareness that, even through the unsettling political events, God is in control and has a plan He is working out for our country. God has blessed Dad and my work, and we have been able to weather the economic downturn so far. We continue to have music night gatherings, and are encouraged by those involved in these events. Praise the Lord for His goodness!

Jennifer. This summer, Emily, Rebecca, and Maryanne trained for and participated in a Child Evangelism Fellowship 3 Day Club. The results of giving in this way were rich both in the lives of those we invested in, and in the spiritual growth of our family. Also, we need to consider and plan with respect to the impending move of Allen's job to Fort Lee, VA within the next 18 months. I'm greatly looking forward this season to a planning session and getting further direction for our family. We need lots of prayer and encouragement with the Holy Spirit opening our understanding to His word and its application in our lives. May we be clothed in humility as we seek Him this year.

The Hynes Family – Allen, Jennifer, Jonathan, Emily, Timothy, Rebecca, Maryanne, Suzanna

P.S. For our latest news and photos go to our website at [www.hynesva.com](http://www.hynesva.com)