

December 2004

It has been a year filled with lots of activity for us. We started out the year by house-searching. Since there was such a buzz about home prices, we decided to see what our little townhouse was worth. While we were excited about the appreciation, we were soon disappointed to see how much larger homes would cost. Just as we were about to give up our search, Uncle Mervyn decided he was also ready for a larger home.

As it turned out, the home he was selling was perfect for us, he bought a home around the corner and now we are both close to Grandma and Grandpa Pandit and our good friends the Spencers. Our other friends, the Merrymans and the Beidemans, are right down the road.

Once again, God's will carved a way for us right in our moment of despair. We have to give special thanks also to the Pandits for putting us up while we got our new home ready. We had several weeks of live-in baby-sitting and good Indian cooking. Thanks also to BJ for giving up two of his three bedrooms to accommodate us.

Harold and Swini had their first trip to Las Vegas this Spring. They had a wonderful time. Of course most of it was in meetings for Harold's conference, but the evenings gave some room for play time. The highlight of the year was a great summer trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The whole family went to celebrate Dr. Sonia finishing her OB/Gyn residency.

There were about 24 people in all for the week and there was still plenty of room in a colossal beach house only steps away from the ocean.



Harold continues to work at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences as its Business Manager. Swini still works weekends as an X-ray Tech at Washington Hospital Center. This year she also added watching one-year old niece Maya during the week. She has been a great joy and source of excitement for our family.

Maya just loves playing with Ian and Jasmine. Ian is now four years old and exercising all his rights as a rambunctious young boy. He enjoys playing "Crocodile Hunter" with Maya. Ian, of course, is Steve

Irwin, and Maya plays the role of Sui, Steve's dog. You can often hear him shouting, "In the boat, Sui, in the boat!" He also loves basketball and the new bike he got for his birthday in September.

Jasmine is eight years old and in the second grade at Atholton Adventist School. She enjoys school and playing with her friends. She is continuing piano lessons at the school and this summer she also added violin

lessons along with her mom. She is taking lessons with the same teacher who taught her Aunty Sonia. She continues the family legacy of gifted musicians.

Teacher is very happy with Swini's progress with violin also. Jasmine loves living around the corner from her cousin Shanthy. They spend a lot of time together after church and on the weekends.

This year has been a blessing and an abiding lesson. We have learned more about the value of family and the merit of good friends. It is all of you and your contributions to our lives that make every day more exciting and full of fun. We look forward to visiting with you or speaking to you over the holidays. We pray God will bless you with another wonderful year. Sure, there will be more challenges and obstacles to overcome. We are ready to face them if you will keep us in your thoughts and prayers as you will be in ours. All the best in the new year coming.



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