Dear Family and Friends,

2015 has been the year of graduations and transitions. Larisa went first graduating from high school in May. She was given the wonderful privilege of speaking at her graduation, and was quickly off to a summer internship at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids. She has since made the transition to Iowa State, where she is enrolled in the software engineering program. It has been very different around the house with Larisa only home on an occasional weekend.

Dan also had the privilege of graduating. He has for the past three years been working on a Doctor of Ministry degree. He finished his dissertation and had it accepted in August. If you have any interest in finding out how town and country churches in Iowa are using video media technology in the worship services, he can tell you. Now that he has officially become a doctor, he insists all his kids call him "Dr. Dad."

Renee, while not an official graduation, finished her music education endorsement. Two and half years of extra classes, regular Friday trips to DMACC in Ankeny (where she and Brielle had the privilege of spending some time with her mom too) have come to a close. She still has to get the "official" recognition from the state of Iowa, but she is very happy to have the classes, trips, and homework a thing of the past.

Abbie is a Junior this year—so is thinking about graduation with ACTs, college, and job choices looming. :o) She thoroughly enjoyed working at Village Creek Bible Camp this summer and made many Christian friends. She's thinking about a career as a zookeeper. Anybody out there want to let her job shadow?

Dan Jr. also had a graduation of sorts. Having finished his first eight grades at home, he has made the transition to public school in Victor this year. He has adjusted and is doing well academically, but with morning activities and after school basketball, he is struggling a little with the 7:00am to 8:00pm days.

Tacy has moved into Junior High. Although still at home for most subjects, she is dual enrolled for choir, band, and electives. That leaves only three of us home for lunch each day. A little reluctant at first, she has fallen in love with basketball and is happy to talk about blocking out, screens, and a few offensive plays.

Brielle, almost 8, is continuing on with her homeschooling. With everyone else at school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, she has had the chance to spend a lot more time with Dad. She has become a visiting partner and is always happy to go calling on the elderly in our congregation.

Speaking of our church congregation, God has worked in wonderful ways. He has brought to us a number of young families this past year. In fact, this fall we had three babies born in the span of only 10 days and then another little one arrived in November. The nursery is now filling up, and we love watching as many of these young families step into leadership in the church.

We thank God for each of you and pray that during this Christmas season you might have the chance to

enjoy the wonder of Emmanuel – "God with us." Joy and true happiness are impossible without God becoming man and saving us from our sins!

> PS We invite you to visit our webpage: <u>www.andrewsfamilypage.com</u> to see pictures, read Dan's dissertation, listen to Renee's music, and more.