

Unto Us, a Savior is Born!!!

Time flies, doesn't it? It feels as if yesterday we were writing our letter for 2009 and it's now December!!

We begin by sharing the great blessing of spending Christmas 2008 with Miguel's family. It had been four years since we last visited (only the nearest family had visited us), so, there were cousins, aunts and uncles who had not met Eduardo yet. Neither had we met some of the youngest nephews and nieces. Frankly, we did not have enough time to spend with our family and friends, but we truly needed this trip.

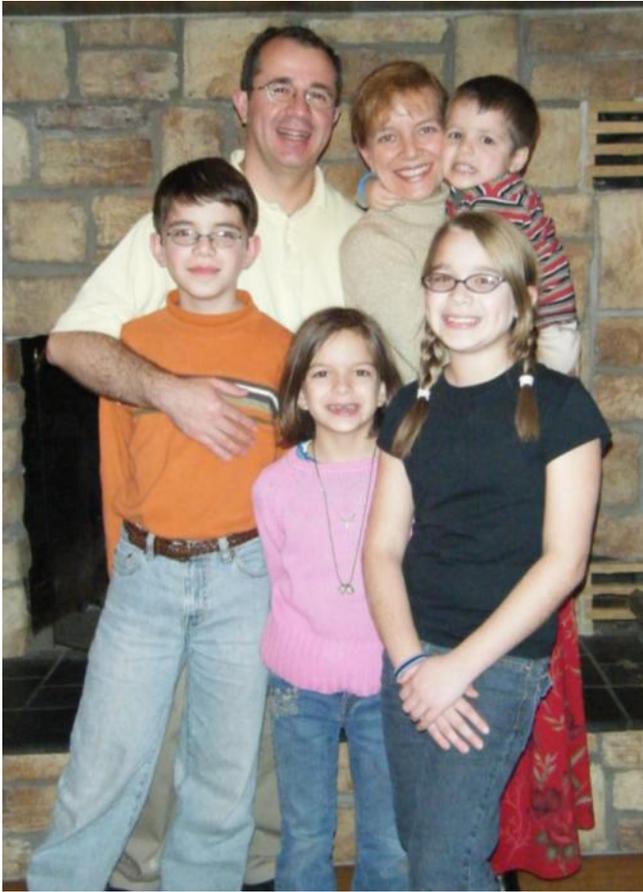
Another great blessing was Joseph and Xhonanita's participation in the People of God's summer camp. They saved money they received as a present throughout the entire year, as well as incentives for their schoolwork. As parents, we were able to see their motivation since they returned from the previous year's camp and the positive effect in their spiritual life and their desire to give back in the future as junior counselors. To top things off, they both brought prizes for their shooting abilities!

We also received Miguel's sister, Lolis, her two daughters and her husband during the summer. We had not had a chance to spend time together in years and the entire family enjoyed these days very much at home and visiting the surrounding places.

Now, an extraordinary event this year was Miguel's 20-year reunion for college graduation. We spent an incredibly short weekend with former classmates and a few of our closest friends in Monterrey (including brothers and sisters from Jesed). We had only communicated recently via "facebook.com" (by the way, if you have an account, please add Miguel as your friend so we can keep in touch!!). Reconnecting with these friends and their families was an experience that by large exceeded the efforts we had to go through for such a brief visit.

We'd love to hear from you!!! Please email us at: xolivas@yahoo.com, mrolivas@yahoo.com, or visit our blogs.

News of 2009...



Eddie (4 ys old): loves playing school and with a Nintendo DS; he already started learning French words and can't wait to be six to start martial arts!!

Montse (7): seems to finally be taking her piano lessons seriously! She's also persevered in her voice lessons and is now a green and orange belt (fourth of ten) in Tang Soo Do. For the second time, she danced during "Culture Night" at the university, with Xhonanita and Mom.

Xhonanita (10): is playing the piano better than her parents ever did. She started cello lessons and is now in her ninth belt -in December she might earn the tenth, which is called cho dan bo or black belt candidate!!

José Miguel (12): keeps improving his violin and started cello lessons too. He is now a black belt candidate!! He could spend up to a year in this stage, which is a very serious commitment! This year he won 1st place in the regional spelling bee and 5th place among the 108 school champions in Western Pennsylvania (check the former in Miguel's YouTube space!).

Have you checked Xhonané's blog? Practice your Spanish by visiting <http://familiacatolica-org.blogspot.com>! In the last three months, she has been having regular visitors from all Latin American countries, Spain, the USA and several other countries. This year, she has been giving back many of the blessings she received in her years at UCO (University Christian Outreach or MCU in Spanish) through Clarion's Catholic Campus Ministry.

Miguel: decided to try Tang Soo Do after three or so years of taking the kids to their classes (he's already in the third belt). As in previous years, he had several work trips and professional achievements. He updates his blog monthly (approximately); the address is <http://drolivaslujan.blogspot.com>.