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Greetings from Illinois!

We pray this letter finds you well and in Christmas spirits! As expected, it's been a tumultuous year for the Kosters. New jobs, new home, new state, new schools, new careers! Steven has finally finished seminary at Calvin and taken a call to broadcast ministry, leading the rest of us to relocate to the 'burbs of south Chicago.



Jess, at age 15, has a driver's permit and has moved fully into sophomore life at her new high school. She writes, "This year has had many changes in my life. I have made some new wonderful new friends. At school, I helped paint sets for the play *Mousetrap* (which was very well done). I had a great time at football games, concerts, and at the Homecoming dance. I'm very glad I could meet new best buddies. We have so much fun together; laughs are guaranteed every day!" And her parents are beginning to face the fact that she'll be off to college in a couple years!



Nathan is now 12 years old and in the sixth grade. He has grown so tall that he matches his mother and big sister for height. He is adjusting well to life in middle school even as his voice has adjusted down half an octave. He's pulling all As in his first year of middle school. He enjoys playing the saxophone and participating in the worship drama program in church. And of course he consumes large amounts of fantasy fiction and loves video games. He has made some new friends, but still misses friends from Michigan.



Samantha, age 9, is in fourth grade. Despite the fact that we were moving at the time, Sami and her siblings all enjoyed another year of summer camp at Camp Roger. She has enjoyed the fun of authoring her own stories at school, and she loves earning Pizza Hut coupons through the reading program at our public library. She has already made several good friends both at church and at school. She donated ten inches of hair to Locks of Love this fall, and now has a cute pixie cut.

Deb has been leading the charge into Illinois, getting the rest of us settled and connected. Sadly, just weeks after moving, Deb's beloved 93-year-old grandmother passed away following a stroke. We miss her greatly. Deb is keeping herself busy with Coffee Break Bible studies and public library book clubs. She's particularly happy to be taking a break from working as a nurse every weekend and to be back in church with the family on Sunday mornings! While she considers which counseling program might be the right one in the Chicago area, she's continuing at Calvin Seminary in their distance-learning program.



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After graduating Calvin Seminary, **Steven** was ordained as a minister and took a call to the *Back To God Hour*, the media ministry of our denomination. BTGH broadcasts in nine languages around the world, reaching millions. As the English Language ministry leader, Steven and his team have the



simple goal of ministering to the 750 million people who speak English world-wide! The job is an amazing combination of corporate media and church ministry. We stand amazed at how God has weaved so many of our past experiences together for just this role.



Our family has been warmly welcomed into our new church home, with folks bringing us meals and helping us clean and paint our home as we moved in.

The kids are enjoying doing drama during worship and Steven enjoys playing his drum box in the worship team. Deb and Jess even choreographed and performed liturgical dance for the youth service. Also, we enjoy teaching



marriage enrichment courses together at local churches, with an eye toward establishing a non-profit family ministry (we're just beginning with a small website at www.FamilyFire.net!).



Meanwhile, we are still praying that our Michigan house sells soon. We miss its fireplaces and our close-knit neighborhood. Steven's work graciously helped with the mortgage, but it remains a big nuisance dealing with its maintenance. And we've been so busy moving, we haven't had much time for big adventures. The closest we came to camping this year was sleeping in our house

without furniture while we painted all the rooms. We did manage to get our bikes on the trails of the neighborhood forest preserves. Our new home is within walking distance to the local commuter train into the Chicago, so come book a visit sometime soon.



Once again, we have seen God's provision for us as we ride out our roller coaster lives. We marvel at his faithfulness, carrying us through yet another major transition, and can only wonder at what he has next for us!

With love,
Steven, Deb, Jess, Nathan, and Samantha Koster

