

# CHRISTMAS 2009

As we reflect on another “**evolving year**” for us....we give Thanks for the many wonderful people who share time with us -

Enriching our lives with their very presence. 2009 provided us new avenues of opportunities along with some enduring memories. Gary has become quite the “green gardener” for our neighbors while Jeanel was invited to join a prestigious international law firm. Brother Jerry reached a milestone - Age 50! Jason took opportunities to hone his home improvement skills by helping with projects throughout the year.

**In the Spirit of being better stewards of our Mother Earth....we continue to share our Christmas Card/Letter “electronically” and we invite you to do the same.**



**Gary** continues his work at AT&T, is a director at Central Communications Credit Union, and does video work for church & “Right Between The Ears”. **Jeanel** is enjoying her OD consulting role within the Legal industry. Her bags are packed if they need her at the office in Switzerland! She’ll join a new board in 2010 and will have exposure to the Council on Foreign Relations.



We attended the last two home games for the KC Royals this year. On Saturday night we enjoyed checking out the new features in the outfield and on Sunday we saw the Hall of Fame in left field. Sunday was also **Zack Greinke’s** last home game (and of course he won!). **Congrats to Zack on his 2009 Cy Young Award.**

This year we hosted **Jeff Helps - T-Bones** player from North of the Border - Ontario, Canada - who attended Central Michigan. Jeff started as a utility infielder, then earned a starting shortstop spot with the T-Bones as the season progressed. We’ve learned that he was traded during an off-season expansion draft to one of the new Chicago teams (the team owned by **Kevin Costner!**). We’ll cheer him on when he plays against the T-Bones providing he makes errors and doesn’t score any runs against us!



At the New Theatre we saw **Hats!** and **The Sound of Music**. In Vegas, we saw **Human Nature** and twice saw **Larry G Jones**. We caught old friend **Jim Brickman** in concert at a historic theatre outside KC.



Jeff meeting with Adyson and Ayla Acosta before a game

We had planned to go to Omaha in June but ended up pushing the trip to August after waking up to 100F temperatures. Two months later, a perfect weekend lead us to Omaha’s **Henry Doorly Zoo** where we viewed indoor deserts, swamps, rain forests, and numerous outdoor attractions. Very nice - definitely plan a full day there if you are in the area. We then walked across the street to the famous Rosenblatt Stadium, home to the **KC Royals AAA team**, to catch a game. Perfect viewing from the right field stadium club. Before heading home we had Sunday brunch “on the river” at **Rick’s Café**.



The enclosed desert at the zoo

Jeanel's brother **Jerry** turned **50** in February and we had a surprise party waiting for him downstairs when he came for a visit. Many of his friends and co-workers were able to attend. As a part of the celebration we later went to Las Vegas where Jerry and Jeanel found a couple of penny slot machines that treated them well!



Jerry and his boss, Nancy, admiring the leather coat he had just received from his Johnson County Community College co-workers for his 50th birthday

Gary tried his hand at gardening this year. Thankfully it was one of the mildest summers so nearly everything grew. We enjoyed lettuce, broccoli, and watermelon throughout the summer. In the fall Gary **built a raised garden box** for next year's crop. While doing so he came "face to face" with "bambi" who seemed to approve of next years food supply. Gary plans to craft a rain barrel system for his watering needs.

We returned to **Cabo** for our week-long outing with the Acosta's & new friends the Hassen's. Our room was on the ground floor near the pool. At first we didn't like the location, yet the convenience of the room for everyone far outweighed the lack of a nicer view. One evening, rather than take a cab back from downtown to our timeshare, we opted for a nice walk along the beach. It was a little like the "quarter mile" story from our 1994 Vegas trip - we knew it was beyond a quarter mile back, but, didn't necessarily expect an hour walk. Yet, walking on the moonlight filled beach with your best friend is one of life's little treasures.



Gary spent many hours in and around the pool playing with Adyson, Ali, and Emma while in Mexico



When we postponed our trip to Omaha we opted to visit the local **Nelson Atkins Art Museum**. We spent hours wandering the numerous galleries exploring art, old and new. We momentarily went outside to view the rare exhibits. Yet, the 100+ degree scorching heat forced a retreat to cooler temperatures.

**Home Improvement - Part XIV.** We spent a couple of weeks this fall painting the main downstairs room which involved taking down & putting back up the hundreds of movie and TV photos that line the walls. Mercifully, only a few more items on the "to do" list for 2010.



Gary and Jacob take a self-picture while Jeanel and Chloe make some chocolate strawberries



*In the hearts of those who believe...*



*It's Christmas everyday of the year.  
To You and Yours, a very Safe and  
Blessed Holiday Season.*

*Gary & Jeanel*