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We got all of our family together on New Years Day last year, but couldn't quite swing it all at the same time. Perhaps that was a metaphor for the year as a whole; we made it through the year fairly well but it didn't come together as well as we had hoped.

Drew and Candess started out the year moving from the midwest to Fort Stewart, Georgia. In August Drew was deployed to Iraq and a few weeks later Candess moved back to the midwest. He is due back around August.

Brian and Mika moved to Australia for about six months, and then moved back Japan. We greatly enjoyed their visit last Christmas and hope to see them again soon.

Sara and Ryan stayed in the same complex in Plymouth MN but moved up to the 2nd floor, to a new apartment. They will soon begin planning the conversion of their second bedroom into a nursery.

And Sam keeps moving and grooving with the Monona Grove High School show choir, drama club, chorus, orchestra, and now the jazz band.

Anne has been a nanny for the same family for two years now and continues to enjoy it. She and Sam traveled with them to Hawaii where they attended a professional conference last spring. Despite a busy week they managed to enjoy some of the local color.

We said good bye to grandma Gover this year. She went to her eternal reward on February 25th. But we also received the good news of the impending arrival of our first grandchild, summer 2010.

Gordon and Anne attended Gordon's 40-year high school reunion at the end of summer. It featured both an afternoon picnic and an evening banquet as well as a reunion of musicians who hadn't played together in 40-years. It was a memorable get together with the experience amplified through the posting of photos and videos afterward on our class's new Facebook page. After all these years social media draws us back in touch with each other in unanticipated ways.

Gordon will be leaving home the day after Christmas for St. Louis and InterVarsity's 22nd triennial student Missions Conference, Urbana 09. As many as 17,000 attendees are expected to come to learn about what God is doing in the world and to consider how God might be calling them to be involved. This will be his tenth Urbana and, like Urbana 06, he will be coordinating the press room and working with the journalists who come to cover Urbana. He's also excited about being able to coordinate an Urbana 09 seminar called "Christians Called to Journalism."

We added a new family member this year, a curious kitty named Elmo. He has rid our yard of chipmunks and put the bunnies and squirrels on notice. He's also attracted to our Christmas tree. Another major development, the whole family is now on Facebook, as surprising as that might be. Maybe we'll see you there.

