

Happy New Year (and Belated Merry Christmas) from the Cincinnati Longs!



[We've decided to "go green" again this year by sending this electronically. Please read on if you want..... or just move on to your next email and know that we're thinking of you during this wondrous holiday season! ☺]

Hearty 2012 holiday greetings from the Cincinnati Longs! Here are some family highlights:

Family overall

- Special times with family are great – we continue to be blessed by geographic closeness and family gatherings with immediate and extended family members
- In what we value as a regular event, the four of us headed away in the spring, this time for Florida – specifically Universal Studios, Everglades and “the Keys” plus bonus time with Uncle Sam and Aunt Jo!
- We again enjoyed the Cline reunion for a week in Northern Kentucky, especially the boating (thanks to Tyler bringing his speed boat!)
- Kim and Steve stay busy with regular activities such as being “table parents” at our church mid-week children’s ministry plus “Bookies” spiritual group study

Steve

- Is enjoying the “partially retiring” lifestyle with the portion of income-producing business dropping off a little each year (intentionally, thankfully!)
- 13th year of independent research consulting – many wonderful aspects to this arrangement (<http://stevelong.wikidot.com>)
- Directing “Job Search Learning Labs” for those in job transition. These efforts involve providing technical learning opportunities plus networking. If you know someone who’s looking for new jobs, they can check out some of our efforts here, even if they live outside the Cincinnati area www.jobsearchlearninglabs.wikidot.com. I’m truly blessed to be working with a great Steering Team on this endeavor!
- Lots of fun playing the guitar and worshipping with several “congregations” – our home church plus a senior living facility and our county jail locations
- Loves the opportunities to gather with several men’s groups and individuals at local eateries and coffee shops
- Special 2012 project will be along the lines of “preparing for continuation of an exciting and fulfilled life, with thoughts and planning for an easier finish for you and your loved ones.” If you have thoughts on this, or materials you’d like to share, please email, call or snail mail.
- Enjoys kayabiking with any number of people, much of it on the Little Miami River

Kim

- Forest-Aires efforts with singing, dancing and committee efforts. The group celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and she’s co-directing the program
- Participates in a women’s book group on a monthly basis
- Traveled to Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky sites with her mom and sister as part of WWW
- Church bell ringing continues
- Sang in church with a small group and Steve joined her for a duet in the summer
- Coordinating volunteer calendar for Discovery Shop (Cancer Society re-sale shop) plus works at the shop a couple of times a month
- Helping out the local school district by handling reservations for a fund-raiser to benefit after school education opportunities
- Working on video projects together with Steve – we had a lot of fun putting some family video up on YouTube [don’t forget to get those precious family videotapes put to digital!]

Cliff

- Continues working computer science efforts for Benefit Concepts in Toledo, OH, though he’s looking for jobs that might move him closer to Cincinnati
- Met Katie in August and they’ve quickly become close, sharing time together on many weekends and at family events including Thanksgiving (Longs), Christgiving (Wileys) and Christmas (Katie’s.) Their cars are putting on plenty of miles – Katie lives in Lexington, a mere 5 hour drive to/from Toledo!
- Continues enjoying gaming online with friends and sports-watching, including his first NASCAR event with Katie’s family
- Regular videocalls home using Skype were his suggestion and have been great!
- Was glad his pool skills hadn’t left him so he could hold his own at this office Christmas party
- Plays a mean game of ping-pong

Sammy

- Is in the midst of student teaching at Mt. Washington Middle School in English and Social Studies – it's going fine and he's getting quite an eye-opening experience
- Plans to graduate from the University of Cincinnati in June, 2012 with a teaching degree in English, Social Studies and Math. He'll be looking for teaching jobs, and has already made the 3rd round of interviews with Teach for America!
- Currently works at Mt. Washington MS's after-school program "Castle Connections" tutoring and leading a recreational sports program
- Annual SWAP mission trip with Steve and 20+ others to Prestonsburg, Kentucky
- Emma and he have been dating for over 3 years now; she's an art student at NKU and has joined us for Christgiving (Wileys) and Christmas (Longs)
- Loves cooking, Ultimate Frisbee playing, church softball plus workouts at the rec center/gym

Here's hoping the peace and love that Christ shared with us on earth is part of your holiday season and throughout the year!

With much love,

The Longs – Steve, Kim, Cliff & Sammy

P.S. In case you like viewing photos, here's a location with some additional shots
<http://longfamily8643highlights.shutterfly.com/>