

December , 1971

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! How are all of you? Despite our terrible correspondence record, we do think of you often.

We've had a busy and mostly happy year. Pat had a miscarriage in January, but we are now looking forward to the arrival of Margaret or Matthew in mid-February (probably min-January knowing our previous record!). Paul Erlich won't be too pleased, but we are!

Beth is four years old now and goes to nursery school every morning. She loves to talk and does so all the time. Sarah is two-and-a-half and a real character-she wishes she were big like Beth, but still enjoys herself! The two of them have a good time playing together and fighting, of course!

In April we attended a Danforth Foundation conference (2 1/2 days) in New Orleans. Pat's mother came for a visit and babysat for the girls while we were gone. A good time was had by all!

Pat took one course in summer school this summer--a lot of fun, but did she ever feel ancient with all those coeds running around! We all took a five day vacation down to Corpus Christi--so pretty and very reminiscent of Miami. The girls loved the water--especially the waves on Padre Island. It really is a beautiful park. we had read a lot about it and it lived up to our expectations.

Mel continues to teach and work with his graduate students all of which he enjoys. The gardening bug has bitten him--and our yard, while not a veritable paradise yet, shows the results of his efforts!

Pat's sister Nancy and her husband have a new addition to their family; they have just adopted a 4-month old Nep-li baby girl! They will be coming home from Nepal with daughters Shanti and Kamala in June. We are hoping they will settle somewhere near us!

We have so much to be grateful for and happy for. It is such a shame that there are still so many inequities and injustices in this poor polluted world. Perhaps next year we'll be on our way to a little more peace on earth.

At any rate--let us again wish you a very merry Christmas and an especially happy New Year!

The Cakes Family