



News from Curtis in Korea

Birdy sent us another letter from Curtis, with the latest on his experiences in South Korea.

Hey Dad, more good career news from Curtis... Birdy
How is my favorite mother? I had to move rooms twice last



week. It was a huge pain. Sometimes I think no one in the company has any idea what anyone is doing. We got some soldiers back from Iraq last week which is why I had to move. The real pain in the butt is that we will be moving to a new barracks in less than one month, so I don't really want to unpack because I will need to move again soon. And, I may be moving to Taegu shortly thereafter. Ugh! So much moving.

I do have some exciting news! I went up to Daejeon last week to meet with some sources, and we met with Immigration for the first time while we were up there. What is exciting about that is that no one else has ever been able to meet with immigration because they have not been able to get introduced to them. So, it was a very important meeting, pretty much for the whole peninsula, and I was in charge of the whole thing. It went well, and the guy was so impressed with me that he said he would introduce me to any other immigration office in Korea. I am ecstatic. All my bosses are very leashed with me, and Sgt Pena said he couldn't be any prouder. So I may be moving up to be either the ASAIC (Assistant special agent in charge) or SAIC (Special Agent in Charge) of my office soon because Sgt Pena is leaving, and he thinks that I am best suited to replace him. I am kind of nervous about the idea but also very excited. I think that this could be a big chance for me to prove myself. Imagine that, six months out of training and I may be in charge of a Detachment. Well, that's all the news from Korea. I miss and

love you all. I will be home soon with stories and everything. - Curtis

News from Aunt Eloise in S.C.

At Christmas time we received a nice report from Grandpa's sister-in-law, who lives in Sumter. It did not fit in the January

Dear Edith and Frank,

Can it be Christmas time already? 2005 will soon be over, and we will have a new beginning. I hope it will be a wonderful year for you and your family.

This past year brought great joy. Our third great granddaughter, Caroline, was born in June. She looks very much like her older sister, Rollins, two years old - dark hair and dark eyes. The oldest great granddaughter, Maribeth, is celebrating her 6th birthday the 20th of this month. Maribeth has blue eyes and has blond hair.

Grandson, Andy, father of the three great granddaughters, was transferred to Ft. Bragg from Texas. Ft. Bragg is only 2-½ hours from Sumter, so we like that! Andy is a Chaplain in the Army. It is just a matter of time, and we are reconciled to the fact that he will be going overseas. Stacy, Andy's wife, is quite capable of taking care of herself and the three girls, although she would rather have Andy there to share the responsibility and the joy. She plans to stay on at Ft. Bragg, if and when Andy goes overseas. Andy served time in the New Orleans area after Katrina hit. Andy said the devastation was more than the mind could comprehend.

Second grandson, Scott, is still in Charleston at the SC Medical Hospital. He works in the emergency room. He likes it very much, and he loves Charleston.. He is planning on buying a boat the first of the year, so all he wants for Christmas is the 'long green stuff'.

Grandson number three, Alex is almost 14. His birthday is January 1st. He is still into transformers, art, and Tae Kwon Do. He is quite an artist. For my birthday this year he painted a modern self portrait, which was very good.

Susan, older daughter, mother of Alex, is still in Library Research at Winthrop University. Jason, Susan's husband, is still teaching history at Winthrop. Both are fully tenured professors, and they like the work. Rock Hill is a typical college town, and they are just minutes away from Charlotte.

Debbie, younger daughter, mother of Andy and Scott, is still teaching 6th grade at Thomas Sumter Academy. Debbie is into everything - she is on the National Board for Leukemia and Lymphoma, she is lay-leader for their church, etc., etc. Dave, her husband is still in construction work. He likes to be outdoors, and the most of his work is installing steel structures.

2005 has made me a cancer survival, for which I am very grateful. In May I was diagnosed with colon cancer, and the operation went very well. I was back at work in about two weeks. Then I started chemo treatments, and had a violent reaction to chemo. There are about two weeks in there that I remember nothing. I was out for three months, but have fully recovered and working full time.

Hope your year has brought lots of good memories. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Lone
Eloise*

issue, so we now print it.

Thanks very much, Eloise, for this report on what's happening with your family in the South. We were sorry to hear of your cancer treatment problem, and relieved to learn that you are fully recovered and back working again. Please give our regards from all of us here in California and elsewhere to your growing family.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

February, 2006

Some news from Sr. Mary in Dubuque, Iowa

Christmas 2005

Dear Ones,

In recent years I began my Christmas greetings around the 4th of July. This year I will call my last year! But Sr. Bernadine Curoe told me I should not quit because I have lots to write about. So....

My brother, Fr. Larry, S.J. died. His funeral was on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. to allow the Jesuits who are teachers to be present. My brother, Joe's family (4 boys and 3 girls) were dressed to go to Milwaukee for the funeral when their mother, Rose, became seriously ill. They decided to stay with her instead and she died later that night. It was a very sad week for me and I still miss them terribly.

I am enclosing a snapshot of 5 of my nephews, each holding two of his little children. They are standing in Rose's front yard with the beautiful hills of Harper's Ferry in the background. That was my childhood home during my growing up years. The picture is quite amazing, is it not? Some of us wonder who conceived the idea of that setting. It is so unusual. I am very proud to have one of the pictures of my nephews given to me by Jared and Kirstin.

You may wonder about the other parent of these boys. Jeanne is the mother of Scott and Bill. Mickey is Jared's mother. Jim is Donny's father. Bob is Josh's father.

A new building is being built across the road from Carter House. It is fascinating. The Sisters call it a Formation House because it is for the use of girls or women who are seeking admission into the PBVM community. One girl, Jessie Beck, will reside there with five professed Sisters who will be her guides or mentors.

Please pray for seriously ill brothers and sisters of some of the PBVM and Visitation sisters. I thank you and pray for you. May your Christmas and New Year be happy, joyful and peaceful.

With love in Jesus.
Sr. M. Paschal
S.V.M.

Peace



Thanks, Sr. Mary, for the news from your family. We look forward to hearing from you, and enjoy your letters. Keep them coming, and many thanks for the prayers you say for our benefit. They are much appreciated.

Christmas at the Hartman's

In the January issue of RFNL we reported on the Christmas day celebration with Birdy and Bruce. Due to space limitations we were able to include only one of the many pictures we took. We have room now to add them to the story, as follows.



We also took some pictures of the final stage of the remodeling project. Everything is now finished, except for planting some flowers in the patio flower beds. We thought it would be interesting to show before and after photos, as shown on the next page.

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Rear patio, as was



Patio as is – old shrubs gone, new fence, new flower bed, and Bruce's new walk-in tool shed – a big improvement!



And here is how the whole patio area looks today! Birdy and Bruce have done a great job in transforming what they bought into a real showplace home.

Francie stars in trade show

this month
in modern



Francie Sorem

Francie travels to Australia

Francie recently sent me the following information.

I also would like to let all of you know that ISO has contracted me to launch our texture and hair care products in Australia in March. I will be out of the salon from March 7th to the 27th. I will also be gone for two weeks in April, the 3rd to the 16th. I will be working several days before I leave and when I return to assure those appointments we have already made can be rescheduled.

Francie Sorem

Confident and assured, ISO Artistic Creative Team Member and Texture Specialist Francie Sorem has earned the respect of her peers in this ever-changing industry. Sorem began her career at ISO when the company had only two waves. She chose to enhance her skills, eagerly absorbing and eventually contributing to the latest waving techniques. Now, she works with the company to develop educational materials. On stage, she uses creative wrapping styles and easy-to-follow instruction in an effort to encourage innovation in waving and textural applications. Change is the driving force behind Sorem's motivation and the reason she will always do something different, newer or more exciting than the last time. "For the last 10 years, I have been designing techniques for waving that make an impression in the hair," says Sorem. See how Sorem works in "Making Waves" on page 90.

Jessica has new job in the air

We were having a family lunch recently, and Jessica phoned Carol to ask us to meet her in the parking lot after lunch



because she had some good news to tell us. With Richard, Ed, Margaret, Carol (Francie was traveling), Grandma, Grandpa, and the twins all gathered around she announced that she had been accepted as a Flight Steward for Continental

Airlines. She will be in a training class for six weeks, and then it's off to Newark, N.J. for her first assignment. She will be traveling internationally, and since she loves travel, she is looking forward to seeing the world. We all wish her the best, and look forward to hearing all about her experiences.

Carol's school robbed!!

We learned recently that the Encanto checking account was robbed of \$8,000.00. Carol sent us a report, see next page.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

February, 2006

Chapter 1 The Move

I have been asked more times than I can tell you, "Why did you move to THAT school?" And I must admit that some of those questions came from me. It certainly wasn't for the facility. I never realized the inequities within the San Diego School District. Maybe once I moved out of the inner city and into a nicer part of the city I figured that in the 20 years I was gone some modernizing would have taken place. Or, did I choose to live in my little part of the world where kids have houses and families, clothes and food, love and hope, and forgot about those first seven years.

When I first started teaching I worked with a wonderful principal who chose to move to an inner city school, Stockton Elementary, which later changed to King, now a Charter School. He went there because he believed all kids deserved an equal education in a loving atmosphere, and he could create that for them. He actually took away the paddle. Yes, they used to spank kids when I started teaching. I admired him daily.

I worked very hard, but as a new teacher it was difficult to juggle that teacher/counselor/mother/father/etc. role and then face test scores that were the lowest in the city. I did what most teachers do when they have seniority, I moved to Green...much greener fields!! I always told myself I would go back when our kids had grown and continue to do what I started out to do.

I became very comfortable at Green. I loved watching my own kids grow up, (wouldn't have traded that for anything), living in the same community that I worked in, the parents, kids, school grounds, my HUGE carpeted air conditioned clean classroom, just about everything. I probably would still be there if it hadn't been for another principal. After working for many, MANY different principals Jean came to Green. She was young, full of energy and had a vision for Green. It was really nice to be working for another principal whose beliefs paralleled many of my own in educating a child. But what did she decide to do, just like the first one? She moved to a school that really needed her. I admired that and started hearing a little voice in my head...I will move back one day, I will....With a lot of thought and then support from my family (and good friend Ruth), I made the move. What a nightmare!!! But once again, that still young (and full of energy) principal has a vision, and if anyone can do it I'm convinced she can.

I have had a lot of shocks since then, (like having a child bring a gun to school in his back pack and having to take it away), but I couldn't be happier with the kids that I now live with 5 days a week...not the kind of happy where I walk in the door with a big smile on my face (a little sympathy is in order for Jeff) but the kind of happy in my heart knowing I am giving back a little bit of what was given to me.

A day rarely goes by, Mom and Dad, when I don't look into one of my student's eyes and realize how lucky I am to have grown up in one of the nicest areas in San Diego, in a castle, where riding my bike all over town and walking home from school was all taken for granted. Now I look back and know that I am where I am, and our kids are where they are because of the two of you. Dad, you took the extra step and went to college instead of a trade school like many of your peers. Mom, you fell in love and took the extra (giant) step, leaving home, moving to a new country, following your heart, and hoping for a good life in a new country. I thank God for your decisions!

The kids I am teaching are not as lucky as I am, not even close. So I guess, Mom and Dad, because of you and Jean, I am trying to make the lives of some unfortunate kids a little bit better by giving them the power of education. I just wish it was a little easier.

I finally did it Dad; here are the first and second chapters of my new beginnings. The problem is that the second is much more important than the first, but I wouldn't feel good if I couldn't have told you chapter one first. You can save that for a later edition of RFNL because the following chapter is much more important.

Chapter 2 HELP!

Sometimes our Justice System just doesn't make sense! Last November one of our school checks bounced. Needless to say, we called and said something was wrong. We were told that we had a zero balance and that

they would send us a statement. It turns out that a substitute custodian took five checks and cashed them, to the tune of \$8,000.00. We were quite shocked; the checks were in a locked closet, and to cash them two signatures, one being the principal, were required. A police report was filed, and they did catch the person who did it, along with three other people who helped. They were put in jail for a month and then went to court. Jean explained to the Judge that the \$8,000 he took from us was all we had to run the day to day expenses of our school. It is money earned over many years. Encanto raises about \$4,000 a year in fund-raisers, compared to the \$35,000 we used to earn at Green. It is hard earned money. The judge ordered the man to pay us \$75.00 a month!!! The man asked if he could go to Mexico to take care of his pregnant girlfriend. The judge said yes! Needless to say, we haven't seen any of the money. If that isn't bad enough, the bank has told us that they won't give back the money either because the guilty person was sentenced, and it is his duty to pay us, not the bank's. What doesn't seem right is that the bank cashed the checks with only one signature, and the one signature was spelled incorrectly! Hard to believe, isn't it?

The money wasn't taken from a school with a surplus of lawyers as parents or parents that have time to complain to the district. Instead, we have all been pitching in, paying for things that are usually covered by this fund. The money from this account covered such things as scholarships for kids to go on field trips when parents can't pay, uniforms for families that can't afford one, replacement of broken playground equipment, shirts for our safety patrol, upgrades on software, end of the year promotion activities for 5th graders, and everything else that is part of the day to day items of running a school.

Had I written Chapter 1 before Christmas I was going to find out if a type of "give back a little happiness" proposal then might have inspired some of you who donate to other worthy causes to pitch in and help buy a Ball Wall for Encanto, for \$1,500. If you have ever seen an elementary school playground around your house, you probably noticed bars, blacktop with game lines painted on, basketball courts, tether ball courts, four ball wall courts. (and if you happen to see Green, my old school, they put \$30,000. into a climbing wall, much to my dismay!) When I started at Encanto all they had was a field with a standard bar set on a field of decomposed gravel. It looked like an empty dirty lot. Kid got in fights all the time because they had nothing else to do.

Jean has worked hard and our playground is close to what a playground should be, thanks to a lot of talking and a little help from the Anthony Robbins Foundation. We still do not have ball wall courts, and I thought it would be a nice to know that a donation was given to something that would be used daily, making kids happy. But now a greater need is at hand. We need to build back our ASB account, so we can take care of our basic needs.

Soooooo, to end my long story that never became short, if you make donations anyway you may want to consider my new home, Encanto Elementary. Any donations can be sent to:

Encanto Elementary
822 65th St.
San Diego CA92114

I can tell you with absolute certainty that every penny goes to needy,



ya Mom and Dad! "Kettle"
Carol Benesch, Encanto, 5th Grade

sweet, unfortunate kids. Channel 10 did a spot on the News a few weeks ago and we have had a few donations from that. The bank had no comment ... hmmm. Channel 10 may come out and do a follow up and who knows, maybe the bank will come around, but until that time any help would be appreciated. Love