



An Update from

DECEMBER 2008

The Smiths

A Year in Review

Dear Friends and Family,

What a year this has been!

When **January 2008** began, I had no idea of what was ahead. Before I knew it, I was headed back to Texas and Mercy Ships for almost 2 months to help out short term.

Just after the start of **February 2008**, a dream came true, and Dave Smith, a close friend from Mercy Ships, asked me to start a courtship and became my boyfriend.

At the beginning of **March 2008**, after 4 weeks together, I left Mercy Ships, headed back to CA, and went back to work at my dad's flag and flagpole business, Vista Flags.

Dave and I kept closely in touch while we were in two different states by video chatting daily via Skype, and in **April 2008**, he came to CA for a visit. We had a great time seeing the beach and the Getty and Disneyland - and he proposed! I was delighted to accept :)

May 2008 saw me headed back to TX for the first of 3 weddings I was in this year. My friend Janine married Dallas Patton on May 17, and I had the honor of being a bridesmaid.

In **June 2008**, Dave moved out to CA and we headed off to England for 2 weeks so that I could meet his family - his mum, 4 siblings (and spouses), the little nieces and nephews, and a few other relatives.

We got back early **July 2008**, and made that month memorable by getting a joint bank account and signing a year-long lease on an apartment.

In **August 2008**, on the 8th, my sister Barbara married Jason Benecke, and once again I was a bridesmaid. Dave and I also made the wedding cake, which was fun (and delicious), but certainly a labor of love!

On **September 20, 2008**, it was my turn and I married Dave Smith, much to both our delight! Barbara was my matron of honor, and my other sister, Karalynn, was my maid of honor. Dave's mum and one of his sisters, Kathy, were able to come from England to be at the ceremony. Dave and I then drove off for a lovely relaxing week at a ski resort in Utah - off season, so no snow :)

We had just gotten back from that trip when we flew off to England again for a Blessing Ceremony and some general sightseeing in **October 2008**. We were there a week and a half, and got to spend time in Edinburgh and London, as well as seeing Dave's family again.

November 2008 held a short weekend trip back to Texas for a reception at Mercy Ships. We were blessed to have a team of capable ladies who took care of every detail - all we had to do was show up! It was wonderful to see many friends and catch up again.

And as **December 2008** draws to a close, we are enjoying just over 3 months of marriage and celebrating our first Christmas together - looking forward to many more, and to what the coming year may hold!

God Bless,
Dave and Dawna Smith

Our new address: Dave and Dawna Smith, 15040 Leffingwell Road, Apt. 7, La Mirada, CA 90638