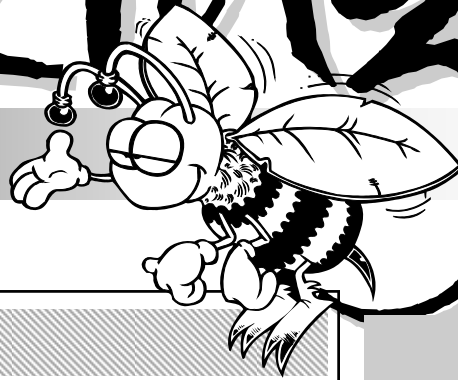


Buzzings

The latest happenings from the family of
Albert & Rena Bakker



GRANDMA BAKKER

Dec 18—All the girls were here for the annual Christmas Open House. Lots of goodies.

Dec 23—Sunday to Moline Church a.m. Got back here and no electric here. No heat. No lights. Had our noon meal on paper plates. The gas oven did work so the food was ok. Elaine came and got me as they thought it would be the next day before the electric would be back on. It was back on by 4:30. Thought I would have to stay overnight. The next day a big snow out my window.

Christmas Day was Christmas so to Moline Church in the a.m. Dan, Bonnie and Mary came to visit in the afternoon. At night Oscar, Elaine and Shari took me for a ride to East Grand Rapids to see all the Christmas lights.

Dec 26—Saw a video about the Smokey Mountains.

Dec 27—Arla came and went to the farm to check things out.

Jan 1—Lots of new snow during the night.

Jan 3 - Helped take down Christmas tree instead of exercise.

Jan 7—Snow all gone.

Jan 14—Saw slides tonight by Gordon Negen about the Wright Brothers making first airplane.

Jan 19—Tom and Denise came to visit from 10:30 until noon. Had a big party at the Meadow Place.

Feb 1—My brother, Fred, and his wife came to visit.

Feb. 3—To funeral of Anna's husband, John Totten, at the church Cal and Lisa go to. Bob and Arla went too. They picked me up. That was a long ride. Stopped at Karens on the way back.

Feb 4—To dentist. Elaine took me. Have to go back in a couple weeks for a filling.

This is all for now. God bless you all.

Grandma

**Bakker
Christmas
gathering was on
January 19, 2008
at the Meadow
Place in Byron
Center. A good
turnout, lots of
good food and a
nice photo!**



Next newsletter deadline: MAY 1, 2008

BOB & ARLA

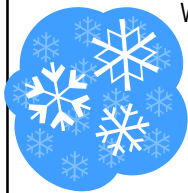
Hi family;

It sure was good to see everyone at the Bakker Party on the 19th, and THANKS to Joleen for taking the family picture.

Shari won the guessing game of 45 non perishable items and she received a HONEY of a prize from the honey bear.

The non perishable items were brought to Traverse City and Big Rapids. PTL.

Our stepmother Marguerite went home to be with the Lord on November 24. We helped Bob's dad age 90, move into a retirement home, and he is making plans to go with us to Florida and escape the deep freeze here.



We are having fun working at our Hobby job's, and we still have time for volunteer work.

Stay cozy and warm,
Bob and Arla

ACTUAL NEWSPAPER ADS!

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.

8 years old. Hateful little dog. Bites.

FREE PUPPIES: 1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbor's dog.

FOUND DIRTY WHITE DOG.

Looks like a rat been out awhile. Better be a reward.

NORDIC TRACK: \$300 hardly used, call Chubby

GEORGIA PEACHES, California grown - 89 cents lb.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica - 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000 or best offer. No longer needed, got married last month. Wife knows everything.

SHARI

Winter Greetings to All! Shari is loving the snow absolutely fantabulously and unashamedly! The more snow there is, the more there is to enjoy.... How's that for a positive point-of-view?

Second grade field trips included singing Christmas carols at a local church which was just a walk across the street in early December. Sixty-some students clad in red 'n green enjoyed singing to the elderly and shared the joy of Christmas with each other. In early January, the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Burger King, and the John Ball Zoo were the places to visit. The excitement included a few students being televised on TV-13 as the Bob-the-Builder Exhibit was the new feature at the time. Regarding events at the zoo, Miss Faber's students were happy to report that all the animals stayed in their cages, and all agreed that the most entertaining animals included the spider-monkeys, gorillas, and the alligator-eating-mice!

As was expected, there was a high demand for harpists in December, which brought about a quiet January reprieve of book reading evenings including: *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the 20th Century* by Alex Ross; *Pure Gold*, a biography of Eric Liddell; and an autobiography of Alan Greenspan, *The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World*.

If obvious truth needs to be told: Aunt Shari simply adores her 8-month old nephew! Playing games and watching him has become more fun and adventuresome with every new age and stage.

Am currently contemplating possible vacation ideas for Summer '08: another Boundary Waters canoe trip, a back-packing hike of Mt. Whitney, CA, or an adult-art-camp perhaps!?! Are there any must-see-places in the *Bakker's Book of Travels*? Ideas and suggestions are welcome!

In conclusion, Shari applauds those who were behind the scenes in putting together January's Bakker Bash at Byron Manor. (For those of you who couldn't make it, it included quite a feast.) In addition to all the scrumptious dishes, there was a sampling of mix dried cherries and the latest in the new apple variety straight from the heart of Leelanau County, compliments of Uncle Alan and Aunt Lynn. I think I sampled enough for all who could not attend the event -- you would have agreed, they are extremely delicious!

OSCAR & ELAINE

"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow...?" (Job 38:22a) This year the snow has come and gone several times, and each time it comes again we are reminded anew that, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." What a gift we may have through Christ!

Oscar and Elaine have been enjoying retirement with it's somewhat predictable and not/so predictable schedule with a lot of this and that and that and this. Oscar's birthday was celebrated with pizza and cake/icecream in December. Mom came over one day and we each made her favorite fruit bread recipe. Christmas night Oscar, Elaine, and Shari picked up Mom and took her for a tour of lights around town. Oscar and Elaine went to the Ford Museum a few days before the 1st anniversary of his death. Elaine went to a symphony concert featuring a "Rising Star" violinist; amazing talent! How can anyone get so much music out of such an instrument? Elaine goes to a Women's Bible study every other Wednesday, discussing the "Women of the Bible". She also spends some time at school especially on Thursday afternoons with 1st graders. Grandparenting is a "flash from the past" when Todd now reaches for our clock weights and lamp posts. We had him overnight while Steve and Brenda celebrated their anniversary in T.C. which was a bit of a working vacation for Steve, and then we just had Todd for two nights while they were gone to the Bahamas on a company vacation. A couple weeks ago ten windows were replaced hopefully giving better efficiency, especially during these frigid days. It was good to see so many come out for the Bakker gathering at the manor! Hoping everyone is staying warm and enjoying the variety of a good ole Michigan winter or a very cold one in Minnesota.

Oscar and Elaine

DAVE & KAREN

The VanderGoots are ready for Spring. It has been cold and wintry long enough in our estimation. The schools around here have already had 8 "snow days." We keep the pipes dripping every night so they don't freeze and are very thankful for a furnace that works. The insulation we had blown in our attic this fall is hopefully keeping us a bit warmer. We are hoping to go somewhere warm during the first week of April, but haven't determined yet where that will be. By then just seeing some green grass will seem really good.

Zac and Abi have both been busy with the bowling teams from high school. They play in tournaments almost every Saturday. They are also busy with band, and were both selected to go to an Honor's Band at Cedarville University in Ohio in February. Zac plans to go, but Abi is choosing to go to the bowling regionals that weekend instead. Zac also is busy playing on the varsity basketball team. We just watched them win their second game of the season!

Abi has been officially accepted to attend Baker College in Muskegon next year! She is interested in studying Surgical Technology. Her high school graduation date is scheduled for June 1, so put that on your calendars as you are all invited to come watch her graduate at 2pm and then to an open house for her at our house afterwards! Hopefully they won't have so many snow days that they will postpone the graduation date!

Chris has been spending a few days with us this week. He is job hunting, but who knows if this wonderful wintry weather we've been having will make him want to move back to Michigan from sunny Virginia! He has other job opportunities at golf courses in Virginia as well. He brought a stray dog home with him whom he has named "Dutchess." We've got to admit she is very cute. He thinks she is part Black and Tan Coon Hound and thinks her daddy is a Huskie!

Dave keeps busy every day at his job in Reed City. Karen stays busy doing real estate things and running cars and kids here and there. Yes, believe it or not, it is a very good time to buy a house or property right now in Michigan! And there are lots to choose from!

That's all from this side of the snow drift - May God Bless you all!

Dave, Karen, Abi and Zac

DON & MARY

Here's a quick update from the 2 of us:

In November I had Jury Duty for a week at GR Circuit Court. I was picked for one case on Monday but thankfully was not selected for the Jury (it was a tough one). The rest of the week my number was not chosen which was fine with me.

Don went on his annual deer hunting trip to the UP with the Fremont friends. The highlight was being able to fly home from Newberry to Fremont. I stayed with Jas/Jo's kids a night while Don was gone and they celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

In Nov. Dan was here for some volleyball refereeing. One day he helped Don dig out our front pond with the backhoe. Dan & Bonnie both came for a week at Christmas. Dan ended up working for Jason a few days and since Bonnie was here on her birthday (12/28) and Dan was working we enjoyed lunch at Max & Erma's.

Last week we enjoyed taking the Amtrak to Chicago for our annual trip to a trade show. We ordered a few things for the business but the main idea is that it's a great getaway with Jan & John Frens and we have FFF (Fun, Food, and Fellowship). Yes, we still have faith in Amtrak and it's a great way to travel.

That's it from Caledonia MI - hope you are all enjoying a great winter.

Don & Mary

BRICE & SARA

It's been a long time since we've contributed to the newsletter. Until now, there wasn't much to write. Last week we sold our house. We have decided to move to Haiti in June and are staying with Sara's parents for a few months. Brice has left his business and is an employee again, but he's still doing the same thing fixing and installing furnaces and air conditioners. Ellie goes to school 4 days a week and loves it. She even gets to ride the bus. Sara still gets to stay home with Ellie and is also enjoying preschool 4 days a week to have a few hours to herself.

Brice and Sara



JASON & JOLEEN

Hi this is Alex. Some of the things we have done this year have been playing soccer, sledding, building with Lego's, and playing with Esther, Sam and David. We even went skiing once after Christmas and new year.

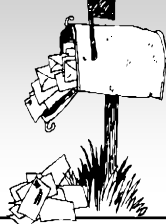
Hi everyone! This is Esther. This weather has been so crazy. First the snow was deep, then it melted, then just before Christmas it came back then just before new years it melted again. And now its back ,again with reinforcements. This year I have been making a lot of shrinky dinks (thanks for the book, Jonathan). Sam and I have been making a lot of window clings. You make the window clings by taking a sheet of very thin plastic, and at stores you can find bottles of simulated liquid leading, put the plastic sheet on top of a design, trace it, let the leading dry for half an hour, color it with window paints, and let dry for 2 hours, and then put it on the window. Since the weather has been so yucky me and Mom have been playing a lot of a Boggle. On the 10th Dad came home, and on the way back home he saw a car that was stuck. So we went to see if the guy was all right, the neighbor said that he had not seen anybody. Oh well.

Thanks, kids! I'm glad you could help me fill up our space. As Esther wrote, Jason has been busy working in Lansing and California. Two big jobs going on at the same time keeps him way too busy, but we are thankful for the work he has.

It was great to see everyone at the Bakker Bash in January. The group picture is available on the website for the buzzings—<http://www.jjapol.com/buzzings.htm>. You can download it and print a copy for yourself (Grandma already has her copy).—Happy Winter! Joleen

New Address!

Brice & Sara Bakker
310 Cedar Ave
Prinsburg, MN 56281



CAL & LISA

So much has happened since the last Buzzings. We had John and Anna's wedding, and all the good times of the holidays, and then John's heart surgery, and finally his death and funeral. We grieve, but not as those who have no hope. We rejoice in the promise of the resurrection and eternal life with Christ.

John and Anna were married Nov. 24, 2007. About three weeks later, he had some numbness in his hands and went to the doctor. Seeing the EKG, the doctor got really serious, and told him to do **nothing** physically strenuous until he saw a heart specialist. All he could do was walk on level ground, and lift no more than a couple of pounds. That really put a damper on the Christmas activities. The heart specialist said he needed at least one valve replaced. He finally went in for surgery Jan. 18 in Petoskey, and we expected him to be home in a few days, but when they opened him up, they found more complications. His aorta had a 4-inch aneurism, and his heart itself was about twice normal size, because it had to work overtime compensating for the bad valve. What should have been 4 or 5 hour surgery took 11 hours, and they couldn't get the heart to pump on its own. They decided to send him to U of M medical center in Ann Arbor. They didn't think he would survive a road trip, and because of the storm couldn't fly right away. They finally flew him down at 11:00 PM on the 19th. Anna drove down and was with him until the end. The doctors did all they could, but his other organs failed, and John left us to be with the Lord on Jan. 31. Lisa drove down to spend the last couple of days with John and Anna, while Cal stayed home with all the kids. We're glad that many of you were able to visit at the funeral home and church. The sisters even brought Grandma up for the funeral. We miss John, but thank God for the time we had with him. His life touched many people.

We got to see ultrasound pictures of the new baby yesterday. The doctor says everything looks healthy. John has a name picked out if it's a girl, Angelina Elizabeth. Should be born about Sept. 1.

Other news: Cal did manage to get a deer. A forkhorn, but if you count small points, it would be a five or six pointer. It tasted good, anyhow.

We got to see our kids a few times. Brian, Lydia, and Jared came up for Thanksgiving and the wedding, and after Christmas, and also for the funeral.

Cal and Lisa got to see Mom when they went down for the GFS meeting in early December.

The weather is bouncing like a yo-yo. December full of snow and cold, then a thaw with thunderstorms, then below zero again, and another thaw, and back below zero. After the first January thaw, Cal found some cutworms crawling on top of the snow. Turns out that this is a new pest, and really common across northern Michigan. They are most active in the fall, and are tough enough to feed right through the winter, under the snow. The rain floods some of them out and sends them to the surface. It is strange to see worms crawling on top of the snow in freezing weather.

God bless you all. Cal & Lisa



RYAN & JAYNE

Hello, Everyone!-Happy winter- as I write, we are in the midst of quite the storm. What a strange winter we've had! The kids and I have been busy holding down the home-front while Ryan has been all over the place. During the month of January, he flew to Littleton Colorado for a preconstruction meeting. The Georgetown FD, where he is a Lieutenant, ordered a \$500,000+ heavy rescue (translation: really big fire engine!) and CO is where it is being built. The very next week, he flew to New Orleans, LA for a firefighter's conference for the city of Wyoming. He got to see some of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, and was surprised at what a mess it still is down there. We are so glad to have him home and all these travels behind us!

Jake will be 5 in February, is going to preschool, and loves making crafts and building forts with the couch cushions. Darcie is 3, is always 2 steps behind Jake (when he complains about it, she tells him it's because she loves him), and LOVES painting. Both of the big kids really enjoy making Natalie (6 months) laugh, which they can do just by looking at her! And for myself, I'm starting to book some weddings for the spring and summer, and I'm just looking forward to warmer weather to play outside again.

Oh, and Happy Birthday, Grandma!

**Next newsletter
deadline:
MAY 1, 2008**



**Grandma Bakker now has a digital photo frame,
so if you have digital photos you would like to share with her,
load them onto a standard SD memory card,
and she can watch them at her leisure.—Cal & Lisa**