

Merry Christmas! What a wonderful year it's been for Rebecca and I. Last year I spent my first Christmas with the Diltzs in Mazatlan, Mexico! I think it was like a "welcome to the family" party. ☺ The temperature was perfect, the food was abundant, and the resort was awesome, good times.

Over Spring Break we took a tour of Germany, visiting some of the significant places in the life of Martin Luther. We enjoyed traveling with a large group from our church, eating good food, drinking good beer, and seeing some really neat historical sites.

Over Easter we traveled to Kansas and Missouri to visit Cassie and Lisa. I enjoyed meeting Brent and his family, and it was fun taking our first long road trip together.

Amongst all this traveling, Becca and I were busy on the home front. Becca has been taking classes and continuing her job with HP. In March I started a job with a start-up company called StarVision Technologies. I worked out of our apartment until May when we finally had an office to move into, that was interesting... StarVision is doing quite well now, and we're really fortunate that I was able to find an engineering job in College Station that nicely fits my skills and pays well. We also started a contemporary service at our church called *The Source*. We've really enjoyed getting involved with the church.

Becca took classes and worked over the summer. We didn't do anything extravagant for our 1st anniversary, we figured 3 international trips in our first year of marriage was probably enough. ;) We did however take some nice time for ourselves.

Becca got her Aggie Ring in September. This is a big deal for Aggies, so we were very excited about it. Sometime about then we decided that this Christmas we're going to help some missionaries in Lithuania for 2 weeks over Christmas Break. We've both always been attracted to the idea mission work in a foreign country; this gives us a rare chance to do that for a short period of time. Most of what we'll be doing is just relational ministry, spending time with people. We'll throw a Christmas party at an orphanage and lead some worships and bible studies. We will have a translator there to help us, and we just started to learn some basic Lithuanian. We're not exactly sure what to expect on this trip, but we think God has great things in store for us, so we're nervously excited. Please pray for us!

We also helped a group of high schoolers compete in a robotics competition called BEST. The students were given an objective and a kit of supplies to build the robot. We had fun helping them formulate design ideas and figure out how to implement them. The robot did pretty well, especially considering the small number of kids working on it and the short amount of time they had to do it.

In November we bought our first car, a brand new 2005 Honda Civic Hybrid! It's awesome and we love it. True, it gets good gas mileage, but the car is really sweet and we feel good supporting a new technological trend.

Becca has been job hunting to find a real job after graduation. She has good potential with HP, but it turns out they don't really start their hiring process until next semester. In the meantime she already received two great offers, one from Raytheon in Denver, the other with General Dynamics in Phoenix. Unfortunately, the Phoenix offer came with a very short deadline, but the job and location look very good for both of us, so this week we've decided to accept it. We'll be moving to Phoenix in June 2005.

Becca will be graduating in mid May 2005. After graduation we hope to jump to England for a short vacation visiting my sister's family and seeing the sights of England. Oh, and the Diltzs want to go to Australia next December. What can I say, we like to have fun! ☺

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings!