

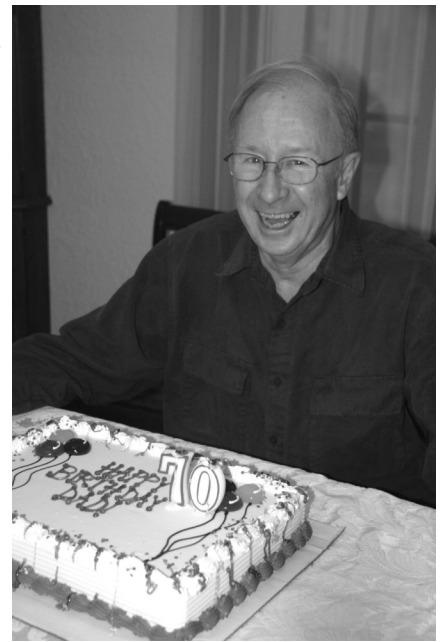


Dear friends and/or relatives,

Christmas 2012

It has been an eventful year for the aging Olsons. We don't look old enough (ya, right!) but in 2012 **Ross** reached 70 and **Karin** applied for Medicare. We did revise our will and trust, too. Our kids no longer need a guardian. Our lives go by in a blur. The days are long but the weeks are short and 52 of them have flown by.

On October 23, **Karin** said goodbye to her right lower leg, victim of 44 years of type 1 diabetes and 20 years of diabetic neuropathy. It was her 5th surgery of the year. She had been riding on a knee scooter for about 16 months after stress fractures of the foot and ankle that never really healed properly and finally led to complete deterioration of the bones and joints. Now she is looking forward to walking with a prosthetic leg, just as soon as the surgical wound completely heals. The process was slowed by a MRSA infection, but is finally improving. We have been honored and humbled to be the object of the prayers of so many and thrown into total dependence on the God who is never surprised by anything. Karin says she has been kept pain free and at peace in the midst of it all through God's answers to prayer. Caring Bridge has made it easy to inform everyone of developments. Karin is already back to all her ministries -- in a wheel chair -- BSF discussion leader, MOPS mentor mom, Kindergarten Sunday School teacher, volunteer interviewer at CES food shelf and grandma (make that "silly grandma") of 10! She uses humor effectively in many ways, including making kids comfortable with her amputation.



**Ross** had another of his occasional encounters with the emergency room January 27 when he went into atrial fibrillation that lasted over 12 hours and needed cardioversion (a form of shock therapy for the heart.) In his usual manner he failed to promptly tell Karin of the problem and she missed the fireworks. (Ross was properly scolded -- will he ever change?) Prior to reporting in at the ER, he scouted the

Science Museum for the junior church field trip planned for the next day, then after the procedure, recovery from sedation and overnight rest at home, led the group as originally planned. Ross continues on the boards of Outpost Ministries -- which experienced a very eventful year, and Twin Cities Creation Science Association which also seems to be in the bulls eye of our spiritual enemy. He serves as member -- but no longer chair - of the Outreach Commission (missions and evangelism) at First Evangelical Free Church. He continues to teach the 4th - 6th graders and leads them on twice a year hikes into the semi-wild. Ross also continues to teach science at a home school co-op. He has had a few pieces published in the local paper and appeared in a mini debate on a local TV station concerning whether children should be taught the evidence against evolution. He was interviewed for an upcoming documentary, "Ten Things Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality." We are both grateful for the opportunity to be involved in ministries of significance. During Karin's wheelchair weeks, Ross has done extended kitchen duty (grateful for all the delivered meals), laundry, chauffeuring, "gopher" and dressing changes on the wound.



Karin has been talking about it for some time but it took the unmistakable signals of impending geezerhood for Ross (the resistant one) to begin actively planning for a move to Senior housing. We are now on the waiting list for a large apartment at Gramercy Park in Richfield, situated across the street from Wood Lake Nature Center (near 66th and Lyndale) which makes it fairly close to our church. Of course, moving will



mean downsizing. Over thirty years in one house and a penchant for shelf building has meant massive accumulation of worldly goods. We realize that we can't take it with us -- ultimately - - but want to move things that we still use regularly. It is actually a joy to give things away when we know they will be used. We are also getting the house ready for eventual sale — once we are notified that a unit is available. We want a place with room for our hobbies and space for the grandchildren as well as capability to house other guests, like the He family from China whom we hosted this summer. It was a thrill to give a 4th birthday party to the couple's son, Yuanfan who calls us grandma and grandpa. The whole family have been have persisted in looking for ways to help us. Imagine a PhD physics professor raking leaves!

Could our kids really be approaching middle age? **Jeff** is a senior programmer for Thomson-Reuters and computer guru for our church. **Rachel** home-schools the 4 kids and prepares most of their food from scratch. Laura, 9, is an avid reader, sings in the children's choir and loves school. Helen, 7, is enjoying being in "Girls Rock!" club at church and loves making new acquaintances. Esther, 4, is happy that she is the only one sleeping over at Grandma's and going to Bible Study Fellowship this year. Clara, 2, watches her sisters and plots her take-over.

**Susan** does house cleaning for family members. She exercises regularly and took her parents' *underused* exercycle. She has also been a great help to Karin in decorating the house for Christmas. **Eric** works in an electrical engineering company developing LED lighting systems and they have their Amway business.



**Jason** has had a busy year doing commercial roofs and side residential jobs when he has time. He sees his kids when they come down from their mother's place in Scandia for Wednesday Youth Group and Kids' Clubs and also on weekends. **Christopher**, 16, is a Rubik's Cube celebrity, ranked number one in America in the 2x2 cube (with a time of less than two seconds!) and in the top 20 in the 3x3. **Patrick**, 13, is growing and becoming a gentle giant with a love of learning. **Aizec**, 11, is an inventor -- with a tilt towards weapons -- and expert at Yo Yo. **Annika**, almost 7, is becoming very creative and artistic like her mother, **Tami**, and her grandma, Karin.

A little over a year ago, we celebrated the marriage of our youngest daughter, **KaWan**, to **Brian** Powers. She continues to teach in a program called Transitions Plus for recent high school graduates with disabilities. She also teaches ballet at a Minneapolis park. Brian's main job is teaching recording technology at Minneapolis Media Institute but he also leads worship at his church, does occasional musical gigs (Snowman the Soulman and his saxophone) and does professional recording and audio production in his home studio. His 2 children love their magical new stepmother. **Avery**, 13, loves basketball and teaches Sunday School at their church. **Xavier**, 9, played football in the fall and enjoys playing "Minecraft" with his Dad. We don't see them as often as we would like. They enjoy good times with their Olson cousins.

We look forward to the soon return of Jesus Christ and face the difficulties and uncertainties with courage because our security is in trusting Him. We truly cannot comprehend how those who think they are on their own can actually cope. But we know that this spoiled world will be remade and our defective bodies made like His resurrected body and we can enjoy eternity with all who have committed their lives to Him. We hope to see all of you then and therefore we take every opportunity to spread the good news now.

Joyfully Yours!

Ross & Karin Olson