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MERRY CHRISTMAS and I hope you survive the Y2K bugs that may be biting soon!!

This has been a year of many ups and downs. Before we dwell on the difficulties, let us say thanks for the many good things that happened this year. Our daughter Katie continues to grow fast and furious. She learned to walk in early July and has been talking up a storm. Her favorite animal sound is "QUUUAACKKK" which serves to frighten off other children more than anything. Katie dressed as Tigger for Halloween and we even trick-or-treated one house! Her hair is growing quite long and she really looks like a little girl more than a baby. Katie loves to watch Elmo, Ernie, Barney and the Teletubbies and calls them all by name. At Easter, Katie got baptized at the Episcopal church in Richmond, KY with Rick and Jane Baltisberger as her godparents. In August we took a family vacation to the Smokey Mountain National Park for a few days and Katie enjoyed going up the mountain. Katie also is excited about this coming year since her cousin, Chloe, is coming to live in Berea (along with her parents, Jon and Kelly). They plan on living on Jackson Street in Berea for the year 2000. Both will be doing their work via long distance (gotta love computers). Also, Julie's parents, Art and Pat, have moved to an apartment in Berea about 1/2 mile from our home. They are a great support and both love to spend time playing with Katie. Other events of excitement for the year included the birth of our new niece Anna Marie in October to Jane and Rick Baltisberger. She is almost 10 pounds now and reminds us of the time (it seems so long ago) when Katie was so small!

Jay has enjoyed his teaching at Berea College. He will be going up for tenure (again) this year. Last year had a bit of a speed bump that hopefully will be corrected this time around (long story made short). In addition, Jay finally achieved one of his goals since coming to Berea with the delivery and installation of the new JEOL 300 MHz NMR spectrometer. He still is waiting on Varian for a probe ordered almost 3 years ago, but that is just another of life's curve balls!

Julie has had a year filled with a little more difficulty than most. As many of you know, she was diagnosed in October with indolent non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This cancer has progressed to stage IV and she will be starting treatments shortly after the new year. The long term approach to treatment will be chemotherapy to get the cancer into remission and wait for a recurrence. At that time we will do chemotherapy again followed by a bone marrow transplant. With all of the research going on, we are very hopeful that this too will end up being only a small speed bump in our lives, but for now it seems a large (though not insurmountable) hurdle. It is because of this health problem that Julie's family has chosen to move to Berea to help support our family in this time of need. On the brighter side, the research project for Julie's MS in Occupational Therapy is moving and we hope she will finish up the degree in the year 2000. We hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and new year.  
Sincerely,

Julie, Jay and, of course, Katarina!!!